

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Meeting Location:

Clark County Government Center
Commission Chambers
500 South Grand Central Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89155

#5

Video streaming and Teleconferencing available at:

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Western Region Office
1100 Valley Road
Reno, NV 89512

and

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Eastern Region Office
60 Youth Center Road
Elko, NV 89801

Public comment will be taken on every action item after discussion but before action on each item and is limited to three minutes per person. The chairman, in his discretion, may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items or attend and make comment during the meeting and are asked to complete a speaker card and present it to the Recording Secretary. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments in order to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda.

Forum restrictions and orderly business: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

Please provide the Board of Wildlife Commissioners ("Commission") with the complete electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations to include as exhibits with the minutes. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format.

NOTE: County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Members and public comment allowed on each action item and regulation workshop items and at the end of the meeting.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the two-day meeting:

Chairman Brad Johnston
Commissioner Jon Almberg
Commissioner Tommy Caviglia
Commissioner Casey Kiel
Commissioner Paul E. Valentine

Madam Vice Chairwoman Tiffany East
Commissioner Tom Barnes
Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs
Commissioner David McNinch

Secretary Tony Wasley
Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance for the two-day meeting:

Deputy Director Liz O'Brien
Administrative Assistant III Megan Manfredi
Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne
Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg
Game Warden Chief Michael Maynard

Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey
Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz
Wildlife Staff Biologist Mike Scott
Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson
Wildlife Staff Specialist Lee Davis
Administrative Assistant IV Katie Simper
Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee
Conservation Educator Doug Nielsen
Administrative Assistant II Natalie Pannunzio

Public in Attendance in Las Vegas for the two-day meeting:

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW
John Hiatt, Clark CABMW
Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW
Scott Torgerson, Lander CABMW
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Zach Lambert, Kalkomey
Fred Voltz, self
Clint Bentley, self
Jana Wright, self
Sonja Almberg, self
Matthew Stewart, Southern Nevada Chapter Trout Unlimited
Bill Teresco, Southern Nevada Chapter Trout Unlimited
Logan Stamm, Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Seth Devereaux, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Therese Campbell, Clark CABMW
Dave Talaga, Clark CABMW
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW
Chet Van Dellen, Kalkomey
Marlene Bunch, self
Cindy Alexander, self
Stephanie Myers, self
Annoula Wylderich, self

Public in Attendance in Reno for the two-day meeting:

Gene Green, Carson CABMW
Steven Robinson, Washoe CABMW
Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW
Caron Tayloe, self
Rex Flowers, self
Carl Erquiaga, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
John "JT" Chevallier, Douglas CABMW
Alan LaVoie, Lyon CABMW
Rowdy Fitzgerald, self
David Gough, Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance
Don Molde, self

Public in Attendance in Elko for the two-day meeting:

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW

Friday, January 24, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Johnston

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Commissioners present were: Chairman Johnston, Madam Vice Chairwoman East, Commissioners Almberg, Barnes, Caviglia, Hubbs, Kiel, McNinch, and Valentine.

CABMW members present: Mike Reese, Clark CABMW; Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW; Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW; Therese Campbell, Clark CABMW; Scott Torgerson, Lander CABMW; John Hiatt, Clark CABMW; Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW; Gene Green, Carson CABMW; John "JT" Chevallier, Douglas CABMW; Steven Robinson, Washoe CABMW; Alan LaVoie, Lyon CABMW; Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW.

2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Elko.

COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

- 3.* Approval of Minutes – Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action
Commission minutes may be approved from the November 1 and 2, 2019 meeting.

Discussion ensued that Mr. Yanick is not a member of the Carson CABMW; that he did conduct a CABMW workshop on his own at the request of the Department and the Commission and that the comment made by Mr. Yanick in the minutes was on his own behalf; the reference that he was representing a CABMW can be deleted.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

Public comment in Reno:

Gene Greene, representing Carson CABMW, stated that said Gil Yanick was at the last meeting to represent the Carson CABMW even though he is not a member; he was designated by the Carson CABMW to make comments.

Phone connection was lost with Elko; Chairman Johnston paused the meeting to determine if Elko had any public comment.

No public comment in Elko.

Chairman Johnston stated that Gil Yanick was present at the November meeting but was not representing any CABMW for that particular entry in the minutes and that language should be omitted; and, that John Hiatt was representing the Clark CABMW and not the Carson CABMW.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO CHANGES; THAT GIL YANICK WAS NOT REPRESENTING A CABMW AT THE CABMW WORKSHOP AND THAT JOHN HIATT WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE CLARK CABMW. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

4. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Johnston – Informational
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

Chairman Johnston stated that any email correspondence he received regarding the black bear hunt and the mountain lion hunt has been forwarded to the Department through email.

Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo stated that any emails received from Chairman Johnston were forwarded to any Commissioner that was not originally included in the email distribution.

Commissioner Valentine stated that some individuals have requested that the Commission entertain the possibility of looking at the mandatory sheep indoctrination and inquired if the Commission could review this for discussion.

Secretary Wasley stated that the Department was in receipt of the correspondence that Chairman Johnston shared and vice versa.

5. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational
CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

CABMW comment in Las Vegas.

Tom Cassinelli, representing Humboldt CABMW, stated that their CABMW had an issue with the new draw system for elk, that the cow elk draw will run consecutive with the bull elk draw; meaning, if the individual puts in for both tags together, they could draw one tag over the other and the tag is issued for the tag that is drawn first. He stated that the public does not know about this process and they need to be informed so they can stop putting in for the cow tags. The Humboldt CABMW members were concerned because they do not want to lose any bonus points if they draw a cow elk tag before they draw a bull elk tag within the same draw process. He requested a system for specific units and that the individual could select whether they wanted a cow elk tag or a bull elk tag first. He stated that their CABMW discussed several scenarios, but he has no particular suggestion.

Glenn Bunch, representing Mineral CABMW, said it was reported in the media that Idaho had removed approximately 200 head of elk from their herd. The Mineral CABMW has asked why those animals were not moved into Mineral County. Based on this discussion, he requested that a management plan be put in place for Nevada to take animals from neighboring states should they become available.

No CABMW comment in Reno.

No CABMW comment in Elko.

6. Reports – Informational

- A. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Mid-Winter Conference – Secretary Wasley and Commissioner McNinch
A report from the conference held in Monterey, California will be provided by the attendees.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he attended the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Mid-Winter Conference which was held in Monterey, California, January 10-12, 2020. He attended the Commissioners Committee meetings and provided that each state provides a report on what they are managing; he uses this as a tool to see what Nevada has dealt with over the years. He stated provided a report of his experience while at the conference. Commissioner McNinch further stated that the Commissioner's Committee is comprised of Commissioners from all over the United States and that some states send all of their Commissioners to this meeting, where in Nevada, Commissioner McNinch is the only one present out of the nine Commissioners on the board. This year it was asked what can the Commissioners do to add value to their attendance at WAFWA and this topic was taken to the Director's level for discussion.

Secretary Wasley presented an overview as to the structure of the WAFWA Mid-Winter meeting which included how many attendees were present and the different types of meetings held. He further provided that there is a strategic planning effort where WAFWA is looking at its strategic plan and making sure that the committee structure and members are truly getting value from the meeting.

Commissioner McNinch provided that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) has taken a major role in the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). They have made changes regarding the distribution of the money, and they have gained congressional support to move the funding opportunity through the process. RAWA has passed out of the Committee and it is in the House for a vote and there is strong bipartisan support. He stated that this topic did not come up at the WAFWA Commissioners Committee meeting which is concerning to him and he will be sure to bring it up in the future.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired with Secretary Wasley whether the Commission should send additional Commissioners to attend the WAFWA Summer meeting; Secretary Wasley responded that he agrees with sending more Commissioners to WAFWA meetings and that this would be a great opportunity for the Commissioners to engage with peers in other states. He provided more reasons why this opportunity would be beneficial for the Commissioners attendance; Commissioner McNinch concurred and provided further information.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she has received input from the general public that the Commission should look at the analysis of surrounding states processes regarding coyote killing contests, that she has reviewed some of the state's regulations and inquired if this topic was brought up at the WAFWA meeting; Commissioner McNinch responded that it was brought up at the WAFWA conference regarding the concepts of what other states have done.

- B. Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife activities.

Secretary Wasley read from the Department Activity Report:

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Director's Office is pleased to announce that Game Warden Captain Mike Maynard has accepted the Chief Game Warden position. The Department led an exhaustive internal and external search and after many conversations with the Law Enforcement Division, determined that Chief Mike Maynard's experience will enhance the Department and the Law Enforcement Division.

House Resolution (HR) 3742, Recovering America's Wildlife Act, has 165 co-sponsors, including Nevada representatives, Congressmen Steven Horsford and Mark Amodei. This House Resolution would provide \$1.4 billion in dedicated funding to state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies for conservation and monitoring at-risk species. This bill was first heard in the House Natural Resources Committee on October 17, 2019 and passed out of Committee on December 4, 2019. Commissioner McNinch talked about some changes in the formula; some people were concerned that there was not enough money dedicated to species recovery, so they changed the formula to provide more money to states that had a higher number of listed species. Commissioner McNinch talked about disincentivizing de-listing species and there were concerns brought up by the Directors that were rewarding those states that were least effective at conserving species. The change in the formula takes a little money away from Nevada but not an appreciable amount and we still very supportive. All 50 states are very supportive with the possible exception of one state, Alaska, there

are concerns that have been voiced there; most of the concerns is centered around the language that pertains to the tribal piece and the history between the Alaska Fish and Game, the tribal interests and jurisdictional authorities in those areas.

Commission General Regulation 487, Bait and Tackle was passed by the Legislative Commission on December 30, 2019. This regulation updates and simplifies regulations for the use of live bait fish and other tackle restrictions and provides consistencies on interstate waters.

The Department's Leadership has recently began hosting regional quarterly meetings. Our goal is to meet quarterly with each region to enhance communication and Department Leadership interaction. The Department administered a survey of the employees the last couple of years and the staff have expressed a desire for more interaction and communication. This was launched a few years ago, which went away, but the Department is reinvigorating the effort. A large group of the Leadership Team attended a quarterly meeting at the Las Vegas office; employees came from Tonopah, Lincoln County, Overton Wildlife Management Area; there was a good question and answer session and employees were updated on many things that the Commission has the opportunity to hear.

The Director's Office have been involved with many significant meetings the past couple of months. The Director has met with producers for an Animal Planet series who are presently actively filming in Nevada; they got some good video with the recent moose captures in Elko County and were present at the bighorn sheep release at Pyramid Lake reservation; and they are interacting with staff all around the state. It is our goal to not just focus on the biology or law enforcement but to elevate the state of Nevada through the eyes of the passionate employees. The Department is looking more broadly than just wildlife which will result in twelve episodes that will aired over a twelve-month span, roughly one per month, with the first show being aired in June 2020. The Department will keep the Commissioner updated. The side benefits to this is that the department has the editorial license over the video. We also have opportunity to obtain all of the b-roll, everything that is not used; it will be incredibly high quality in large volume that can be used through all of our social media channels to show the releases, the captures and the professionalism and passion of the Department's employees. This is the same company who produced Lonestar Law in Texas and North Woods Law in Maine. When first approached about this opportunity, the Director had conversations with the Directors of the other states and learned from Maine that it quadrupled the number of calls they received but did not offer any further resources. The Department wants to make sure they are coming at this from the right angle and not going to place a larger burden on the staff, but truly highlight the state of Nevada and all that it has to offer more broadly than just wildlife.

Director Wasley and Deputy Director Robb attended an interagency Bear Management Meeting that was held in Tahoe on January 15, 2020. They are working with California Fish and Wildlife (CFW), California State Parks (CSP), United States Forest Service (USFS) and other agencies, and it was a positive meeting. Director Wasley had an interview regarding enhanced conservation through broader funding and article for the Nevada Capitol News. The article was published on January 15, 2020; it references the make-up of the Commission, and some of the views around representation from the Commission. <https://nevadacapitalnews.org/2020/01/15/the-nevada-department-of-wildlife-looks-to-enhance-conservation-through-broader-funding-and-expanded-public-engagement/>. Director Wasley has also met

with staff from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Nature Conservancy regarding the Department activities as well as future expenditures associated with the conservation bond program that passed last session. None of that money is available yet, based on the bonding capacity of the state, but at some future point the Department will have as much as \$30 million available to the Department of Wildlife to expand over a ten-year period when it is determined that the bonding capacity of the state can justify the sale of those bonds.

The Director flew to Washington, DC in December to meet with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency (AFWA) Executive Committee and North American Wetlands Conservation Act Committee. Commissioner Hubbs has referenced the State of the Birds Report where a decline of the birds was reported at 2.9 billion birds over the last 50 years. When looking at the biomes that show market losses in the birds, there is one exception to the trends that we see and that is in the wetlands species, in particular ducks and geese, who is experiencing exponential growth. That is attributable to the wetland and waterfowl conservation efforts in this country, the North American Management Plan and Conservation Act have contributed billions of dollars to wetland conservation. Despite the negative trends and the loss of birds, this is a positive as it demonstrates the benefit of those sportsman's organizations contributing through Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, California Waterfowl and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. There is hope that these focused and concentrated well-funded efforts we can make a difference and reverse the trends.

The Department has just completed an audit requested by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) to review employee timesheets and grant funding that included Pittman-Robertson (PR) and Dingell-Johnson (DJ) funds. Preliminarily we are optimistic with the results. The Department has experienced nineteen audits in the past fourteen years since 2006, in various capacities; fourteen of those audits have occurred in the last seven years; that is an average of two audits per year. They run the gamut from our federal aid audits through the US Fish and Wildlife Service

Director Wasley hosted the agency's podcast with Conservation Education staff to do a 2019 year in review as well as discuss the agency's priorities in 2020.

The Department's Leadership Team has begun working on the biennial Leadership Conference. This year's conference will be held February 24-26, 2020 at the Peppermill in Reno and will be full of important topics such as the Relevancy Roadmap and improving our engagement with customers and the public.

GAME

The Game Division has hired a new Wildlife Health Specialist, Dr. Nathaniel LaHue. Nate comes to us from Wisconsin, where he has been working with the University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Department of Health Services on the Milwaukee Angler Project. He has served in several roles around the nation, including work with Washington State University and Virginia Tech University. He holds degrees as both a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and a Masters of Preventative Veterinary Medicine. Although his first day with the Department will be February 10, 2020, he has been attending captures to familiarize himself with our processes, procedures, and personnel. Our former Wildlife Health Specialist, Dr. Peri Wolff, has accepted the position of Executive Manager for the Wildlife Disease Association as well as Chair of the

Board for the Wild Sheep Foundation and will be officially retiring from the Department soon. Her contributions to the Department are substantial, and although we expect Dr. LaHue to fulfill her former role effectively, her experience and expertise with the agency will be sorely missed.

The Department coordinated with Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe on bighorn sheep restoration efforts that occurred earlier this month. The Tribe received a large grant from the USFWS to support the initial bighorn sheep reintroduction and building staff to support monitoring and management of bighorn sheep into the future. Several weather delays had complicated the completion of the translocation, but this has been a substantial success story for the state of Nevada and the Paiute Tribe. Bighorn sheep have again been reintroduced into their historic range as a direct result of biological expertise, commitment from our sportsmen and women, and intergovernmental coordination. There has been interesting dialogue and debate in the social media channels as to why Nevada is giving away sheep to areas where Sportsmen cannot access them. This will be discussed later when the Department provides information about a request the Department received from the state of Washington for pygmy rabbits. Nevada has been the beneficiary far more than we have been the contributor in these instances. When we look at the populations for the pronghorn antelope, elk, mountain goat, rocky mountain bighorn sheep, and California bighorn sheep, Nevada has been on the receiving end far more than the Department has given. This comes from the AFWA and WAFWA meetings where Commissioners and biologists are discussing opportunities with one another; there is a general appreciation and understanding among all partner agencies and states that there is great value and benefit in redundant populations; the more that we have in the field, the better off the species will be. Whether or not the hunters can access those sheep for whatever reason is neither here nor there, the species is better off, the agency is better off, and the Department will continue to cooperate, coordinate and contribute in any recovery efforts for establishing redundant populations.

Monitoring for Chronic Wasting Disease continues with about 400 samples that have been collected or are in transport to the Wildlife Health Lab. Of that total, so far 294 samples have been returned with no positive detections of Chronic Wasting Disease in Nevada. Three hunters have turned in meat from deer and elk harvested in Wyoming that was confirmed to be positive for Chronic Wasting Disease. All meat has been incinerated at the Nevada Department of Agriculture, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.

Game Division staff attended the Department of Defense (DOD) and Consolidated Group of Tribal Organizations (CGTO) meeting in Las Vegas on November 14, 2019 to discuss current and future bighorn sheep management activities. The CGTO is made of 17 Southern Paiute tribes from California and Nevada with continued strong spiritual ties to bighorn sheep and a deep interest in their welfare not only on the Nevada Test and Training Range but throughout the southwest region.

Game Division staff also attended the annual Nevada Woolgrowers meeting in Elko to promote increased vigilance and improved communication between woolgrowers and Department biologists to maintain separation between domestic and wild sheep while respecting the sheep industry. Biologists attended the woolgrowers breakfast.

The Department is working with the Nevada Chapter of The Wildlife Society to host a raven workshop in Elko during April 21–23, 2020. The workshop is being designed to educate participants on challenges with raven management and collaborate on innovative methods to reduce raven density on Nevada's landscape.

HABITAT

The Technical Review (TR) Program continues to provide on-going administration of the Energy Planning and Conservation Fund and the associated cost recovery fund (AB 307). During the 2019 calendar year, fourteen different AB 307 applications were submitted by energy projects; for two pipelines, five transmission lines, and six solar facilities, respectively. In the first quarter of 2020, the Technical Review (TR) anticipates significant time will be spent reviewing and assessing the implications of proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), under which the Department provides significant feedback and coordination with federal partners on public lands projects impacting wildlife across the state.

A private landowner has donated 160 acres in Mason Valley near Yerington, Nevada to be added on to the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA). The new property extends the eastern boundary of the WMA near Miller and Aiazzi Lanes. The Walker Basin Conservancy (WBC) purchased the water rights from this property as part of their water acquisition program to increase flows to Walker Lake. A portion of that water will remain on the property allowing the Department and WBC to work together on a restoration plan to establish native vegetation and control noxious weeds on the property. Mason Valley WMA is one of the Department's most popular areas and now contains nearly 18,000 acres.

The Wildlife Heritage application period is open until March 2, 2020. As reported, the funds available for fiscal year 2021 (FY21) projects are anticipated to be \$1.268 million.

The new Habitat project tracking database and project planning tool are in development and proceeding smoothly. Base-layer Geographic Information System (GIS) layers that include soils, weather data, and ecological sites descriptions that are commonly used for planning, have been reviewed with the contractor and we expect beta versions of the planning tool and wireframes of the project database within the next two weeks.

The 2019 Wildfire season burned approximately 82,000 acres across Nevada. However, the Department is still working on restoration actions from the 2018 season and currently we have over 55,000 acres of wildfire rehabilitation efforts in action. Additionally, during 2019 the Department completed approximately 11,000 acres of Pinyon-Juniper treatment with an additional 4,300 acres currently under contract.

The Northern Water Development Crew is finishing up the build schedule for 2020 and working internally on purchasing materials in preparation for a busy year. North crew construction projects will occur in the Wassuk Mountains, Calico Mountains, Trinity Range, Kamma Mountains, and Butte Mountains among others. The Southern Water Development Crew is already amid their build season and is working on projects in the Arrows and Desert Range. Other projects for the year will be completed in the Mormon Mountains, Volcanic Hills, and San Antonio Range.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

More than 150 people attended the annual recognition banquets for volunteer outdoor education instructors in the Las Vegas and the Elko area. Several instructors received awards for 25, 30, and 40 years of service. A Browning shotgun was generously donated by the Carson Valley Chukar club for the 40 years of service award. In addition to receiving recognition for their contributions, the volunteers received training on using the new volunteer Event Manager for documenting student participation and volunteer hours.

Conservation Education Staff worked a Boys and Girls Club event located on Ninth Street in downtown Reno. Staff had three stations and the theme was trout. Department staff had a "Macro" Station where the kids learned about the different bugs that lived in the water. We also had "Build-a-Trout" and a new fish spawning game. The 41 students were broken up into groups depending on grade which ranged from first through seventh. This event was an effort to follow our Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap and focusing outreach to more diverse communities. Our goal is to work with the Boys and Girls Club regularly from here on out.

Public Information Officers (PIO) worked with the Nevada Division of State Parks, Nevada Department of Natural Resource and the Nevada Division of Water Resources on a press release relating to the temporary closure of Cave Lake as safety measures are taken during construction on Cave Lake Dam. Staff also worked with the agencies on a story by the associated press on dam safety regulations in Nevada.

A post by Conservation Staff on the platform Next Door, urging Reno neighborhoods to be cautious of wildlife on roadways, grabbed the media's attention, and was featured in "This is Reno", www.thisisreno.com a local website dedicated to daily news.

In November, PIOs did interviews with Lake Tahoe Television, Channel 2 News and KOLO 8 News educating residents about being responsible in bear country as bears build up calories before going into hibernation. They also started a social media campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, featuring different wildlife in Nevada that would benefit from RAWA if the bill passes. The campaign has been well-received by the public. Every post gets positive comments on the agency's work, likes and shares, and questions wanting more information. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies often reshapes the posts to their national audience.

Conservation Education staff has partnered with the Wild Sheep Foundation once again for the 2020 Reno Sheep Show which was held January 16 through 18, 2020, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. Thousands of children registered for this event and the turn-out for the Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience section has been close to 4,000 in attendance. Staff and volunteers worked a variety of educational stations including fly tying, archery, casting and wildlife education stations. At the main booth, staff assisted customers with their accounts and profiles in preparation for the Nevada Big Game Application Period that will begin March 16, 2020. This event is a great opportunity for the attendees (resident and nonresident) to speak with Game biologists about the different species Nevada has to offer.

Conservation Education staff will partner with the Safari Club International (SCI) for the 2020 Reno SCI Show which will be held February 5-8, 2020, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. There will be a Youth Wildlife Exhibit section very similar to what was offered at the Sheep Show. In addition to a variety of

educational stations including fly tying, archery, casting and wildlife education stations, the SCI Show will have a very large fish tank that will give kids a chance to fish for live rainbow trout.

DIVERSITY

In northwestern Nevada, staff have completed monitoring for American pika across eight populations. While some populations remain mostly stable, persistent losses were apparent in the High Rock region. It is possible that some of these losses may be due to disease outbreaks of Plague.

Department staff continue to work with the Habitat division on multiple geothermal projects that focus on springs and impacted taxa such as kangaroo mice, shorebirds, and bat communities.

Diversity staff participated in and hosted this year's annual meeting of the Nevada Bat Working Group that represented the largest turnout yet. Biologists from eight state and federal agencies as well as individual consultants and students attended with topics addressing the revision of the Nevada Bat Conservation Plan, status updates from ongoing bat research and monitoring projects across the state, results from the 2019 bat blitz, and the selection of northeastern Nevada for the 2020 bat blitz.

A new type of bat detector, called an Anabat Roost Logger, was deployed in a very remote cave in the Virgin Mountains in Southern Nevada. This cave was discovered by accident 10 years ago and has piles of guano spread like carpet throughout the cave, and in some places, it is more than 12 inches deep. This indicates high use by bats, likely in the summer, but due to the remoteness of the cave, it is difficult to get to in the summer with the Mojave heat. This new bat detector will not provide species identification of the kinds of bats using the cave but will provide valuable information regarding how and when bats are using this cave, which may be an important maternity site or a migratory stop over for Mexican free-tailed bats.

The 2020 Department-coordinated Nevada Winter Raptor Survey is off to a great start. The survey covers 70 driving routes across the state, documenting and providing information on the distribution, status, trend, and habitat use for over a dozen raptor species, several of which are Species of Conservation Priority. Surveys are conducted by Department staff as well as federal agency biologists, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and volunteers. This year also involved Diversity staff reviewing and updating the route maps to ensure clear and consistent survey coverage and a Survey123 app that has been developed to digitally collect data in the field.

Over the past six months, the biologists in Fallon has been working with National Audubon Society Saline Lakes program staff to digitize and analyze over 30 years of shorebird data from the Lahontan Valley. The Lahontan Valley was given a "Hemispheric importance" designation in 1988 and is an internationally recognized important site.

This past fall, weekly Gila monster and desert tortoise tracking commenced, focusing on determining final hibernation locations. Monitoring will now occur bimonthly for these two species until they become active in the spring or early summer.

The Diversity division held their annual coordination meeting over three days to prioritize work for the coming year. During the meeting, division staff surveyed a mine in southern Nevada where over 30 bats of three species were observed hibernating in the mine. Two types of bats, Townsend's big-eared bats and Myotis bats, were sampled for white nose syndrome. It was particularly important to take samples from the myotis bats as we know that in other parts of the country, white nose syndrome has heavily impacted these species. In Nevada, we have few areas that we know of with hibernating myotis, and because they tend to hibernate in very small crevices, high in mines or caves, obtaining samples is difficult but we were able to get over 10 Myotis samples on this survey.

FISHERIES

Although winter 2019-2020 snowpack is still uncertain, we anticipate summer 2020 should provide excellent angling opportunities across northern Nevada. Major reservoirs including South Fork, Wildhorse, Rye Patch and Lahontan are currently at or above normal storage levels because of the good water year in 2019.

In 2019 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program staff performed over 43,000 watercraft inspections and 1,100 full vessel decontaminations statewide; approximately 60 percent of the inspections and 75 percent of the decontaminations were at Lakes Mead and Mohave. For 2020 the US Bureau of Reclamation has provided additional funding to support the AIS inspection stations in Laughlin on the Colorado River and at Lahontan Reservoir, and staff are working with the Duck Valley Tribe to improve watercraft inspection capabilities at Wildhorse Reservoir in Elko County for the 2020 boating season.

Department staff are continuing to investigate strange lesions on native redband trout in the Bruneau River drainage that were first reported by anglers in summer 2019. Initial reports indicate that Whirling Disease is not the cause. We are working with state fish pathology labs in Idaho and Arizona but at this point they are as puzzled as we are as to the cause.

The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment issued a fish consumption advisory for fish from Topaz Lake on October 15, 2019. The advisory on mercury levels is inconsistent with the one developed by the Department and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP). It includes rainbow trout which are not in the Nevada advisory and some fish species that do not occur in Topaz Lake. The reason for their advisory is unclear and it was not developed in coordination with any Nevada agencies. Samples will be collected by our Fisheries staff for mercury analysis by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at several waters statewide this spring. These samples are collected annually on a rotational basis to update fish consumption advisories for the public in cooperation with NDEP as well as a response strategy for 2020 in the event new Hazardous Algae Blooms are detected at locations in northern Nevada.

Winter trout stocking for urban fishing ponds in southern Nevada began in mid-November and will continue through March or April, depending on water temperatures. Catchable-sized rainbow trout are stocked at multiple locations in Clark County and southern Nevada including Sunset, Lorenzi and Floyd Lamb parks, the Boulder City and Mesquite urban ponds and the Beatty fishing pond.

Western Region staff are working with the town of Minden on development of another urban fishing pond for western Nevada. Seeman's Pond is located north-east of downtown Minden. The town is working with us to deepen the pond and to provide fishing docks and public access.

In early January, NDEP reported a spill of around 25,000 gallons of partially treated acid mine drainage into Tabor Creek in Elko County. An investigation by Department staff found no dead or stressed fish and normal pH and temperatures. However, it's likely that snow and ice upstream may have caught most of it and we may have issues during spring runoff.

The Devils Hole pupfish mid-winter survey counts were completed the week of January 6, 2020. Adult fish numbers were similar to recent years' winter counts and indicated a good carryover of fish into spring 2020. Algae was unusually abundant for this time of year which should help maintain conditions in Devils Hole into spring and summer.

Recent hydrologic assessments have indicated that effects from long-term dewatering at the Long Canyon Mine project in Goshute Valley could extend as far as Independence Valley on the west side of the Goshute Range which is the home of the ESA listed Independence Valley speckled dace. Department staff are working with the USFWS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Nevada Gold Mines to complete an updated full status assessment of the endangered dace. This has not been completed since 2009. The dace and the Independence Valley tui chub occur only in a large, privately owned wetland in the valley.

Fisheries staff are working with the USFWS to develop a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement for the critically endangered, ESA listed Pahrump Poolfish. This agreement will allow landowners and other partners to use private ponds to maintain additional refuge populations for conservation of the poolfish. A similar agreement is being used to rear and maintain populations of endangered razorback suckers and bonytail chub at The Lakes and Desert Shores in the Las Vegas valley, contributing to the recovery of those species.

Fisheries staff are continuing to spend considerable time working partners on addressing ESA listing petitions for multiple Nevada aquatic species. Those activities include both providing the USFWS biological information on species status and distributions, and on implementing proactive conservation actions that may help the USFWS come to a decision that ESA listing may not be warranted. Listing decisions on 19 springsnail species, the relict dace in Goshute Valley in Elko County and the Dixie Valley toad in Churchill County are expected in 2020 or 2021.

DATA & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Department continued to see growth in license sales again in 2019. There was a total of 125,201 fishing licenses and 95,875 hunting licenses sold in the calendar year of 2019. This is a 48 percent growth in fishing licenses and a 37 percent growth in hunting licenses compared to 2017, before the Kalkomey system was implemented.

Online renewals for boat registrations opened December 1, 2020. This was the first year the Department processed auto renewals of boat registrations for client's who choose to opt in for this feature via the Kalkomey system. There were 9,451 boats successfully auto renewed at the end of December.

The License Office staff has been providing customer support to anyone requesting help with reporting harvest return cards. There has been a 78 percent completion rate of harvest return cards as of January 13, 2020. The Division is working closely with Kalkomey and the Conservation Education Division to send both email and text reminders to the remaining 6,212 hunters to have them submit their return cards before the deadline of January 31, 2020.

In conjunction with the Fisheries Division, a voluntary Angular survey developed in the Kalkomey system was tied to 142,000 customer accounts who purchased a fishing license in 2019. The survey will remain open for customers to complete through the month of January.

The License Office staff saw a successful opening of accepting applications for Spring Turkey Hunts that opened on January 13, 2020.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) staff completed the necessary updates to the Fishable Waters map for the 2020 Fishing Guide and the Lek Database updates for 2019. Staff also finished the Survey123 collection application for both the Harvest Check-In, which is used by the regional offices for any species harvested that have a mandatory check-in and the Winter Raptors collection tool which will be used by Diversity staff when they start to survey Raptor nests.

The Fishing Guide is out and available now; the updated fishable water maps are included along with informative articles; one referencing the Lost Art of Small Creek Fishing. The Department is getting a lot of positive feedback on the fishing guide.

Lastly, the Information Technology staff deployed new tablets for both the Habitat and Diversity staff to use in the field for data collection.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Wardens in the Eastern region responded to about ten lions in leghold traps this year. One was euthanized due to the location and time of the incident. Wardens issued two separate citations to lion hunters for illegally possessing lion pelts without following the sealing requirements and an additional suspect for possessing a lion without a seal after he attempted to take it to a taxidermist in Idaho. Twenty-eight trapping violations are under investigation, including 12 baited sets, two visitation violations, and 14 unregistered traps. Three mountain lions came into urban areas in the Eastern region and wardens have advised hunters and homeowners of their options relating to attractants. One incident was an issue of people feeding deer in which case the homeowners were given a warning for feeding the deer. An investigation is underway concerning a trapper who shot a mountain lion in a trap and then attempted to check it in, violating NRS 501.130. A criminal complaint is being filed with the Elko County District Attorney's (DA) office.

Game wardens helped with a body recovery at Wildhorse Lake where a citizen plunged over a cliff near the dam and died in the lake. The temperatures were below zero degrees Fahrenheit as officers attempted to launch the boat in a partially frozen lake before being stood down due to the dangerous conditions.

While checking traps near Double Mountain, an Eastern region game warden found a suicide victim in his truck. He coordinated with other responders regarding removal of the body from the area. A game warden in the Southern region was first on scene to a presumed suicidal subject that turned out to be a severely intoxicated driver who had pulled to the side of the freeway.

Four game wardens attended the Hunter Education awards banquet on January 4, 2020 and several received tenure awards for being instructors. All Eastern region game wardens are currently hunter education instructors. This is a hands-on way to learn what is expected of hunters in the field and an important way to meet new hunters in a positive light.

A traffic stop made by the interdiction team, the Nevada Highway Patrol and Washoe County Sheriff's Department along I-80; the Department was called to manage raptor talons that were found in the vehicle. Upon investigating, the suspect from California had deer meat with a valid tag in the vehicle, along with freshly cut raptor legs and talons stored in a shotgun shell box. The suspect stated he found a raptor where he was hunting in North Dakota and thought the legs would be interesting to have. The raptor parts were seized, and the suspect was cited for possession of the raptor parts. This investigation is ongoing.

A person who was suspected of killing a 4x4 deer on an illegal tag recently plead guilty to Furnishing False Information to Obtain License, Tag or Permit which is a misdemeanor pursuant to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). He was ordered to pay a civil penalty of \$2,895.

A Southern region game warden issued a citation to a subject for the feeding of big game; the individual had been given a warning of the action a few weeks prior to the citation. Another game warden issued a warning for feeding wildlife in Cold Creek. Game wardens have been actively taking steps to stop the rampant issue of feeding deer in southern Nevada.

Southern region game wardens are working with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office regarding dogs that broke free from a home and killed a deer in Caliente.

Southern region game wardens investigated two trapping cases, including one that had become a local news issue regarding lawfully set traps that had been stolen. Multiple citations were issued for other violations throughout the case and charges are pending on the subject who stole the traps.

Secretary Wasley thanked the Commission for providing him the opportunity to share so much information about the Department's activities.

Chairman Johnston congratulated Chief Game Warden Mike Maynard for his appointment upon the retirement of Chief Game Warden Turnipseed; the news was well received based on his working relationship between the Commission and Chief Maynard. He stated that it was exciting to see on the news the reintroduction of the bighorn sheep near Pyramid Lake.

Chairman Johnston provided that he has a conference call scheduled during the lunch break and may need to step out at 12:15 p.m. to accommodate that appointment.

- C. Conservation Partner Spotlight – Secretary Wasley – Informational
An overview of a key conservation partner program will be shared with the Commission.

Secretary Wasley thanked Madam Vice Chairwoman East for creating this standing agenda item to give the Commission an opportunity to hear from our conservation partners. He introduced Matthew Stewart of Southern Nevada Trout Unlimited and presented background on the group.

Matthew Stewart stated that the Southern Nevada Trout Unlimited were established in 1997, and they have about 300 members in their chapter. Their primary focus is on conservation of cold-water species. They have partnered with the Department on several projects, mainly with angler education, fly-tying classes and Trout in the Classroom. They have also partnered with the Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area to plant trees and have improved the campground. They have enjoyed the partnership with the Department. The website is: www.sntrout.com where the public can sign-up for their monthly newsletter; and they have reoccurring monthly meetings at Bass Pro Shop and at Sportsman’s Warehouse.

Chairman Johnston thanked Matthew Stewart for being present today and sharing what their organization does in the community. He thanked them for what they do for Nevada and its wildlife, especially programs that are directed towards the youth in the state.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

- D.* Litigation Report – Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife litigation.

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett thanked the Commission for the continued opportunity to serve the Department. He stated that he will be representing the Department on all things moving forward unless there is a conflict when the Commission needs to be represented separately from the Department on contested hearings. He reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department’s website for the public. He stated that since he drafted the Litigation Report, the Supreme Court has notified him that they want to hear briefing on the trapping case. He stated that last week he argued before a panel of justices and he felt like he had a fair opportunity to present arguments to the Supreme Court and they will render a decision three to nine months from now.

- E.* Wildlife Heritage Account Report – Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne
A report will be provided on the funds available (interest and principal) for expenditure from the Wildlife Heritage account in the upcoming year and an update on available principal balance.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne notified the Commission that the staffing for the Heritage Committee has changed since the retirement of Mark Farman; that Lee Davis is the new Staff Biologist who has replaced him and will take over the responsibilities. Alan reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department’s website for the public and presented a PowerPoint on the Wildlife Heritage Account Update.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Administrator Jenne requested guidance from the Commission on how to proceed forward. Approval would have to be decided by the June 2020 meeting.

Secretary Wasley provided more context to the Wildlife Heritage Account which is under the guidance and direction of the Commission. He referenced the table with the history of the principal balances and provided that through time the principal balance has been statutorily protected.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Administrator Jenne regarding Commission Policy 11 which speaks to the expenditure of the Wildlife Heritage Account and points to the Heritage Grant Manual, and that policy may need revised in more detail due to the statutory change.

Chairman Johnston provided his thoughts on how the money could be spent but that there needs to be a policy put in place to determine this; he inquired with the Commissioners on the best way to move forward.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated that there is a lot to tackle in the Regulation Committee; she would like to see the Wildlife Heritage Committee take the first step and bring it back to the Commission.

Commissioner Valentine stated that as the Chairman of the Wildlife Heritage Committee, he has no problem at looking at the options and he realizes that it will take a lot of discussion.

Commissioner AlMBERG concurs with having the Wildlife Heritage Committee start the process; when the Wildlife Heritage Account was first opened it was for extraordinary circumstances.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he agrees as well; he suggested using seed banks and using the money towards the system to deliver the seeds so that it is used more efficiently.

Commissioner Barnes concurred with the comments; that the money needs to go towards extraordinary circumstances and fires are a good opportunity for the money to be spent on the ground. He also agrees that the reviews of the policy need to go through the Wildlife Heritage Committee and for the members to not rush it to do it right.

Commissioner Hubbs concurred to not spend money until necessary; only on an as need basis.

Chairman Johnston asked that the Wildlife Heritage Committee set a meeting in conjunction with the March Commission meeting to start updating Policy 11 in light of the changed law and work on it for presentation later to the Commission; and the Department can provide an update with respect to the Manual so that effort can run parallel moving forward.

Secretary Wasley provided some thoughts to the Department on how the money can be used.

7. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Wasley – Informational
The Commission has requested that the Department provide regular project updates for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on geography and timing of meetings. These updates are intended to provide additional detail in addition to the summaries provided as part of the regular Department Activity Report and are intended to educate the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Secretary Wasley stated that there have been questions and comments in prior Commission meetings about what the Department has done for sagebrush and mule deer. He provided that Administrator Jenne

has shown the expenditures associated with the restricted reserve account which has been several million dollars in the sagebrush ecosystem. The Department continues to be plagued with poor performance of the mule deer herds; that there are over 370 species that are dependent on sagebrush for all or part of their life cycle; and that Nevada has lost approximately 25 percent of our sagebrush in the past ten years to wildfire. The Department has a concept that will be shared as an Informational item with the Commission today that might provide a broad overarching umbrella under which the Department can gather the information on what has already been done and guide those things that we can do in the future and put focus attention on some of those species where there is an expressed desire to see the Department do more, spend more and focus more and we believe this can be accomplished under the Sagebrush Conservation Initiative.

Administrator Jenne presented a PowerPoint on the Sagebrush Conservation Initiative.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Chairman Johnston stated that he is excited to see the future of this initiative.

Secretary Wasley explained how the Relevancy Roadmap was developed and presented a PowerPoint on Recovering America's Wildlife Act and Relevancy Roadmap (RAWA).

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated she appreciates the time Secretary Wasley took to present this information to the Commission as it is interesting. She hopes to have ongoing conversations with the new Outdoor Conservation Coordinator and inquired if the Department anticipates a long-term revenue stream that could help fund the initiatives and programs.

Secretary Wasley responded that he could see broad public support for RAWA which would be a direct funding stream to increase relevancy. The more relevant an agency is the greater the likelihood that their activities would be supported. He stated that the Director of the Department of Wildlife is on an eleven-member advisory board for the Office of Outdoor Recreation (OCR) and the Outdoor Conservation Coordinator will interface regularly with the OCR. The Department wants to help the public understand that the Department is in the recreation business and has a lot of recreational opportunity to share wildlife viewing and outdoor activities. There is a lot of national discussion with kayaking and paddle boarding; as people shift to paddle sports, agencies are spending a lot of law enforcement time and energy with water safety laws without a revenue stream to compensate for it.

Commissioner Kiel inquired if it is the Department's intent to address the unshaded boxes within the slide of the presentation.

Secretary Wasley responded that the Department looks to see if they align with the Department's strategic plan and if there are barriers to prevent the Department from being more relevant in a way that was jeopardizing the funding stream. The biggest challenge with RAWA is the perception that wildlife agencies have built a conservation machine on the backs of sportsmen and women. There is a great model for conservation; the question is, is it enough and is it sustainable.

Commissioner Kiel inquired about how to bring those people in so they understand; the increased hunting and fishing sales have been phenomenal but is that a direct relationship to the growth in the state or are we bringing in different types of people.

Secretary Wasley stated that there are a lot of challenges in the metrics; most of those increases have been in the nonresident community. There are some movements such as the “farm to table” movement that was not covered; there are industry partners like GoHunt.com who are providing a resource to new urban hunters who are looking for an opportunity to get lean organic healthy protein, knowing where it is coming from and taking pride in that. The other program is Wild Harvest Initiative and the Department sees a role with the Outdoor Conservation Coordinator. It is not the Department’s desire to make everybody a hunter or an angler, it is the desire to understand and appreciate that different people view wildlife and the value of wildlife differently; and through that, change our approach, messages and communication with them. He provided more information that the Department needs to modify how the agency engages and communicates with the public.

Commissioner McNinch thanked Secretary Wasley for his ability to articulate this information. It is not a conversion issue; it is the fact that the Department is an outdoor recreation business and the efforts the Department is doing is bringing down barriers.

Secretary Wasley provided some context that in our social networks, the Department tends to believe the public understand what we do; which is incorrect. Only eight percent of the 895 species that we manage generate revenue for our operations. Part of being included in the Office of Outdoor Recreation, is achieving a broader understanding of the outdoor recreation opportunities and how much that is enhanced by the presence of wildlife.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 2:54 p.m.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

8. Commission General Regulations – Workshop – Public Comment Allowed

- A.* Commission General Regulation 485, Tag Transfer, Deference, and Return Program, LCB File No. R022-19 – Management Analyst Kailey Taylor – For Possible Action
The Commission will hold a fourth workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for allowing the transfer, deference or return of tags under certain extenuating circumstances after the passage of Assembly Bill 404 of the 80th Legislative Session. At the first workshop the Commission directed the Department to narrow the options for the transfer or deference of a tag. At the second workshop, the Commission directed the Department to draft changes to the regulation encompassing the description of “extenuating circumstances” and a timeline to return the tag to the Department. At the third workshop the Department was directed to re-write the regulation to allow for the transference of tags only in life-threatening circumstances.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department’s website for the public and presented a PowerPoint on Tag Return, Transfer, and Deference Program, CGR 485.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Hubbs about the time period at issue for the Department to have a five-day window to process the tag, Management Analyst Kailey Taylor provided a response with examples of the timing to return and reissue tags in the instance of a death of a family member and if an individual has a

terminal diagnosis. She also stated that returning a tag for a bonus point or deferring the tag until the next season would not be an issue with timing.

Public comment in Elko:

Jim Cooney, representing Elko CABMW, stated that this regulation is a prime example why the Commission is looking at regulation simplification. He stated that while this bill was going through the legislature, the intent was to transfer a tag to a family member but this has been blown out of proportion. The Elko CABMW is on record as not supporting this regulation and he asked that the Commission not support this regulation and refer it back to the legislature to get something closer to the original intent.

No public comment in Reno.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Mike Reese, representing Clark CABMW, stated that they voted to support this regulation, but they had arguments about how to issue a tag that it is returned.

John Hiatt, representing Clark CABMW, stated that if the death of a relative is an issue, then providing a death certificate within 14 days can be hard to do in the time frame provided.

Discussion ensued that if a tag holder has 14 days to return a tag, then they can follow that up with a death certificate to prove the extenuating circumstance; and Management Analyst Kailey Taylor confirmed that she could include language that stated, "upon receipt".

Chairman Johnston stated that he shares some of the concerns of the Elko CABMW, that this is not the most simplified version of a regulation; that the tag transfer legislation started off very different than where it ended; and that the Commission has had stakeholders talk about giving an opportunity to transfer a tag when there is illness, or to address the extenuating circumstances that arise where a person is not afforded the opportunity to return a tag. He is mindful of Elko CABMW comments but would have liked to have heard an alternative because a lot of work has been put into this discussion.

Deputy Director Jack Robb provided that the regulation now addresses about 95 percent of the issues that the Department has faced in the last few years regarding returned tags; he provided examples to support this.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East commented that the original regulation is how Deputy Director Jack Robb suggested but got caught up in a political situation. The Legislature then left it up to the Commission to define extenuating circumstances; that the Commission has gotten it to the point of where it needs to be and that she is comfortable approving it as it stands now. She suggested that over time it could be reviewed for Regulation Simplification.

Commissioner Almborg stated that the regulation captures the Commissions discussions and he is in full support of it.

Chairman Johnston requested that this regulation be added to the March agenda as an adoption hearing.

- B.* Commission General Regulation 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve, LCB File No. 103-19 – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz and Management Analyst Kailey Taylor – For Possible Action
The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would allow customers to purchase a bonus point for a type of hunt for a season that is not open. The regulation also addresses bonus points for sportsmen who apply as a party. Lastly, the regulation would allow a first-come-first-serve opportunity for returned tags that miss the 14-day deadline to be awarded to the alternate list.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor stated that this regulation came out of the Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) and in part of the draft regulation, the Committee wanted to let non-residents apply for hunts that were not open; for example, the mountain goat hunt. The language was in the draft but did not make it into the language that came back from the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB); however, that language can be added to the regulation upon request.

Discussion ensued that the public asked to have the opportunity to buy bonus points even if there is no non-resident hunt so they can go into the draw with bonus points; and that they are willing to pay for the bonus points for that opportunity even if there is ever a hunt for that species.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz and Management Analyst Kailey Taylor reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public and presented a PowerPoint on Commission General Regulation 490, First Come First Serve and Bonus Points.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Chairman Johnston provided the background to how the regulation change came about regarding children twelve years of age to put in for bonus points if they turn twelve in the fall.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the return of party tags has increased since it has been implemented; the Department's statistics show that the 2018 numbers were higher than the 2019 numbers by about 30 tags.

Discussion ensued regarding how the First Come First Serve process is going to work; the technical details at Kalkomey; and whether mini draws were an option.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor stated that during her time working the recent sheep show, there were multiple people who asked if the Department did a First Come First Serve program, so there is great interest in this concept.

Discussion ensued between Madam Vice Chairwoman East, Chairman Johnston and Management Analyst Kailey Taylor that if one person in a party hunt returns a tag, the rest of the party can follow through with their hunt; the people who turn in their tag will get their bonus points restored, but those that hunt will be treated as a successful hunter.

Discussion ensued regarding the goal is to get tags back in the hands of hunters for more opportunity and that a second alternate list should be considered before the tag goes to a First Come First Serve, first serve situation.

Public comment in Elko:

Jim Cooney, representing Elko CABMW, stated that their CABMW had opposed this regulation, but after listening to the discussion, they think Commissioner Alberg is on the right track. Their CABMW was concerned about the First Come First Serve would be implemented; they wanted it specifically off of the alternate list, but after listening to the discussion, if anyone could put in during the 14 days for an alternate tag, then utilize that process to distribute the tags back rather than going to the First Come First Serve. If the alternate list has been exhausted, then try the First Come First Serve process.

Public comment in Reno:

Rex Flowers, private citizen, reminded the Commission that applications for the closed seasons is through a guide in Washoe County through the CABMW. He stated he likes the idea of the First Come First Serve program; once the Department gets within the 14-day window, it comes down to affording an opportunity to as many people as possible. The tags are there to be sold and there will always be people trying to work the system, but he would like to see the Commission pass the regulation. Regarding the bonus points for party hunts, if all members of a party turn in their tags, the bonus point is to be restored; but he suggested that if any portion of the party returns a tag, the bonus point will not be restored.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Mike Reese, representing Clark CABMW, stated that their CABMW voted 6-0 in support of this regulation with a recommendation. He stated that the airline industry manages this same scenario; if an airline ticket is returned, it then becomes available to other buyers; an individual can put the ticket in their cart, but it does time-out if not purchased timely. The Department knows ahead of time the alternate list, if there are tags available in an area, an email can be sent to those on the alternate list to give them a time frame to respond to claim the returned tag. Their CABMW would hate to see someone with low or no points to get the tag; he suggests using the alternate list as needed.

Glenn Bunch, representing Mineral CABMW, stated they discussed this regulation and questions came up on how the First Come First Serve would work. They understand the scenario to be that people on the alternate list would be notified electronically.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Management Analyst Kailey Taylor about the language in NAC 502.417 that says if one member of the party returns the tag, but the others continue with the hunt, no bonus points are restored for any members of the party.

Deputy Director Jack Robb stated that the First Come First Serve does need to be in the regulation even though it will mostly be business practices that need revised; he provided information in support of the First Come First Serve process as originally presented.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs and Management Analyst Kailey Taylor that with the issuance of returned tags, the rationale of expediting people into the field does not make sense because they would not have enough time to prepare for the hunt; however, if an individual is specifically prepared for a hunt and willingly looks at the Department's website to purchase a returned tag, they can make an informed decision on whether they are prepared for the hunt to purchase that returned tag. Further discussion ensued that people are going to evaluate whether they can take time off from work, whether they are willing to give up bonus points and consider many things before they haphazardly buy a First Come First Serve tag; those who have not scouted and are not prepared to hunt are not likely to take the risk to buy the tag; other people are prepared at any time and have the availability to buy a First Come First Serve tag.

Discussion ensued regarding sending an email giving people a chance to opt in or opt out to be on an alternate list for receiving a returned tag; that Kalkomey will need to be consulted on the technical functionality of the process; that there is a cost to the customer and the state to be considered for a First Come First Serve product; and, if the Commission wants to build a new product for this year, there are deadlines and timing issues to consider.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he likes Commissioner Almberg's suggestion with the second alternate list as it would be a personal choice by the client to be on the list.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Chet Van Dellen of Kalkomey that if an individual selects to be on the alternate list during their application, then a tag is returned two weeks prior to the hunt and they are selected from the alternate list, they will draw that tag. The choice is made on the application in April. If there is a second alternate list established as is being discussed today, then additional messaging would need to be established to prevent confusion.

Commissioner Hubbs provided that she has had an airline ticket in her que to purchase and had it stolen by not purchasing it quick enough. She suggested that there is technology to prevent certain devices from hitting on the system constantly and inquired if Kalkomey had similar technology; Chet Van Dellen of Kalkomey responded saying that certain spamming technology could be put in place to circumvent spamming but if the goal is to put the hunter in the field, the Department has to determine if that is the type of security to be implemented.

Commissioner Hubbs stated she agrees with Deputy Director Jack Robb that there is a system is already in place; suggested that we use what we already have this year and reassess a new process later, so the Department is not under pressure to create a new system.

Deputy Director Jack Robb reminded the Commission that this process is based on 14 calendar days; he provided an example of a tag he drew on the alternate list, that he knew he could not go on the hunt and that he turned in the tag within 17 days before the season started. The Department did not reissue that tag because of the business practice would not allow it. He stated that Division Administrator Munoz has gone to great lengths to define the process to shorten the turn-around time; the Department is trying to simplify the process to get tags in the hands of hunters. When you apply state laws and business practices, it becomes cumbersome on staff, and these are the things the Department is trying to figure out.

Discussion ensued that at the March Commission Meeting, the Department will bring this regulation to a workshop on Friday which will give the Commission the option to have an adoption hearing on Saturday; that no changes will be made to the regulation before the next workshop; and that Senior DAG Burkett confirmed this process for the workshop and adoption hearing.

Discussion further ensued that the Big Game Application period opens on March 16, 2020, with the Commission Meeting on March 20, 2020; that some items discussed today may not be implementable at the next Commission meeting; and that timing will be an issue to get the regulation approved.

9. Committee Reports - Informational

- A.* Landowner Compensation Tag Committee Report – Commissioner and Committee Chair Brad Johnston – Informational
A report will be provided on the Committee's recent meeting held on January 24, 2020.

Chairman Johnston stated that the Landowner Compensation Tag Committee met this morning. One issue the Committee has discussed is, what happens when the statutory cap is met for landowner compensation tags; and that the Committee came up with a formula to address that scenario. The second issue that the Committee worked on was to establish a protocol on how animal counts are conducted throughout the state. The Committee will bring the new protocol to the Commission for review at the March meeting. If the Commission approves this final protocol, the Landowner Compensation Tag Committee can be dissolved.

- B.* Regulation Simplification Committee Report – Commissioner and Committee Chair Brad Johnston - Informational
A report will be provided on the Committee’s recent meeting held on January 24, 2020.

Chairman Johnston stated that the Regulation Simplification Committee met for the first time this morning, and is comprised of himself, Madam Vice Chairwoman East and Commissioner Caviglia. He stated that the Department has a number of clean-up and simplification issues that needs to be addressed by the license simplification process; that the Department has consulted with LCB on how to proceed and they gave a presentation to the Committee on the process. Since the focus was for license simplification, the Committee will prioritize issues to be addressed by chapters in the NAC, including boating and wildlife regulations; also inviting the CABMW’s, stakeholders, and members of the public to provide their input. He cautioned that the goal is not to rewrite the regulations; they need to stay true to the task, which is simplifying and clarifying regulations that need it.

- 10. Public Comment Period
Persons wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker’s card and present it to the recording secretary. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

Caron Tayloe, public citizen, stated that concerning the rebound of the wetlands birds mentioned earlier, she agreed that we should thank the sportsmen, but let us also remember the Obama era regulations that helped the rebound of the birds, and those regulations have recently been rescinded by President Trump. Concerning the earlier discussion on ethics and the written declarations in other states, she stated that most hunters are considered ethical; however, hunting will not be considered ethical until it can separate itself from the complete destruction and lack of respect of wildlife that is shown by killing contests. It would be interesting to find out what charities benefit from such unethical activities. Trapping by the fur industry is unethical; there is no fair chase; 96 hours in a trap; the non-target data is staggering; and unlimited capture. Based on the information given earlier, how many law enforcement hours are burned by trappers who do not follow the law. The non-target data shows the want and destruction of trapping. The complete reliance on self-reports techniques show irrelevancy of trapping. What is the sport going to do about the want and waste of wildlife? Last November a film was showed about wildlife crossing corridors, and a quote from the film was, “when did this become okay?” When did all the non-target data become okay and not be addressed by this Board, when did all the want and destruction of the killing contest become okay?

Carl Erquiaga, representing Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), stated the following:

“Chairman Johnston, members of the Board, I was very encouraged to hear in Administrator Jenne’s report, the plan to bring a Sagebrush Conservation Initiative to you in the near future. As you know, healthy, functioning sagebrush habitat is key to so many important wildlife species in Nevada. The four cornerstones

Alan laid out for you are such important issues and are the focus of much effort and resources throughout the west today. Without a way, or ways, to conserve those values those sagebrush dependent species will suffer. One of those cornerstones, the connectivity of species and habitats, is something my organization, and many others, has been working on all over the west. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is recognized as a leader in this arena because of the work they have been doing documenting and prioritizing ungulate migration corridors and constructing highway crossings with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). NDOW is the envy of other states who have only recently began working on the issue. Regardless of what form this Sagebrush Conservation Initiative takes, I trust it will be well thought out and science based. TRCP welcomes this initiative and I want to formally make the offer to assist in this endeavor in any way possible.”

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Logan Stamm, representing Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, stated this comment is in regards to the Sagebrush Conservation Initiative that was proposed:

“Nevada is home to robust populations of migrating wildlife that sportsmen and women have worked hand in hand with NDOW to conserve over the past many years including mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep and pronghorn. However, the ecosystem that these migrating animals rely on is still facing significant challenges. Nevada's sagebrush ecosystem is one of the most imperiled in the U.S. The loss of healthy habitat comes from conversion to conifer woodlands, exotic and invasive grasses, wildfires and ever-increasing human developments. The vast majority of Nevada's sagebrush ecosystem is public land managed by the BLM. Because of the great work NDOW has undertaken over the past years cultivating new science and analysis relating to wildlife, wildlife movement and habitat, we have an opportunity to address some of the challenges that face Nevada's sagebrush ecosystem. This new data puts NDOW in the driver seat to use this science in collaboration with federal agencies to influence federal land management decisions, notably to better conserve critical migratory routes that big game animals. Since 2011, Nevada has initiated a multitude of large-scale research efforts to investigate potential causes for our declining mule deer populations in several key herds across the state. The Department of Wildlife has been on the forefront of using new technologies to track ungulate movements providing new conclusions into how these animals utilize Nevada's landscapes. This new information regarding where and when animals utilize seasonal and migratory habitat in relation to land tenure, land use and transportation features has implications for science-informed conservation on Nevada's sagebrush ecosystem. Nevada has long recognized the importance of identifying and conserving crucial habitat for big game, including migration corridors in winter range. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) wants to take this opportunity to voice our support for this work. The membership of BHA values the traditions and heritage of our wild lands, waters and wildlife. BHA hopes to work in coordination with NDOW moving forward to identify science-based solutions that provide NDOW the needed tools to address issues our imperiled sagebrush ecosystem, for the benefit of our wildlife.”

Fed Voltz, public citizen, provided the following statement:

“A committee of the Commission spent time discussing Regulation Simplification today. What has not been discussed is the Commission's Committee structure and overdue revisions. The Elk Damage and Incentive Committee last met on November 12, 2013, over six years ago. It clearly has no pressing business to conduct. If there is any new business, then it can be handled by the Elk Management Committee. The same applies to the Elk Sub-Planning and Elk Arbitration sub-committees, which have not met since April 12, 2016 and June 27, 2016, respectively. The Wildlife Scholarship Recipient Selection Committee has not met since March 15, 2013. It, too, needs to be disbanded. At the same time, two committees that have been disbanded failed to resolve the ongoing problems with trapping and bears. The problems and lawsuits just keep occurring. Previous Commissions tired of dealing with the subjects and hoped the problems would just

disappear on their own. That has not happened. Newly formatted Committees or some other workable construct that actually addresses the problems would be something to add to a future Commission meeting. One step forward would be to task the NDOW Executive Director with requesting that Governor Sisolak have his personal representative on the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) agendaize the following subject. The Governor's call would be for meaningful action in resolving the dangerous wildlife-in-urban-areas problem around Lake Tahoe. As you may know, TRPA is the only government agency with authority over both California and Nevada. Wildlife is artificially attracted by uncontained human trash from the wilderness into the Basin's urban areas. Free food is a powerful draw. NDOW kills bears deemed to be nuisances and other bears die as they unsuccessfully attempt to cross busy highways. Other wildlife species meet a similar fate. The simple solution would be mandatory wildlife proof containers throughout the Basin. None of the local politicians, save those in Incline Village, have been interested in doing anything comprehensive to stop the carnage stretching back more than two decades. Since the Commission's primary job is to protect, preserve and manage wildlife, not just figure out ways to promote more hunter killing, this task falls squarely in your purview.

Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

Saturday, January 25, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.

11. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Johnston

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Commissioners present were: Chairman Johnston, Madam Vice Chairwoman East, Commissioners Almberg, Barnes, Caviglia, Hubbs, Kiel, McNinch, and Valentine.

CABMW members present: Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW; Dave Talaga, Clark CABMW; Scott Torgerson, Lander CABMW; Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW; Therese Campbell, Clark CABMW; Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW; Gene Green, Carson CABMW; Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW; Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW.

12. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

Chairman Johnston stated that agenda item 18B will not be heard today as the Department has not received language back from LCB; this item will be postponed to a future Commission meeting.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AGENDA ITEM #18B DEFERRED TO ANOTHER MEETING. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

13. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Johnston and Secretary Wasley – Informational

Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

Chairman Johnston stated that he received two emails last night and he forwarded them to the Department; they were related to the bear hunt agenda item.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she received about 3 to 5 emails regarding the bear hunt that were not sent to anyone else, but she will forward them to the Department.

Secretary Wasley stated that everything the Department received has been shared with the Commission. He stated that he received one email from a satisfied elderly gentleman from California; he provided that he received great support from Department staff who assisted him with an issue he had in filling out his hunter questionnaire card.

14. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational
CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

No CABMW comment in Elko.

No CABMW comment in Reno.

CABMW comment in Las Vegas:

Scott Torgerson, representing Lander CABMW, thanked the Department for removing sheep from Lander County and hoped the transplant went well since their herd is doing great. He stated that they are trying to get a youth antelope hunt in Lander County, but they have not received any information about a tag meeting and requested an update.

15. Update on the Fallon Naval Range and Training Center and Nevada Test and Training Range – Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne – Informational
The Department will provide an update regarding the legislative environmental impact statements status and timelines for Commission consideration of congressional correspondence relative to wildlife impacts.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne presented a PowerPoint on Nevada Test and Training Range; Fallon Range and Training Complex.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Chairman Johnston inquired if the Department was consulted with respect to the legislation that was proposed for the Nevada Test and Training Range; Division Administrator Alan confirmed that the Department was not consulted. Discussion ensued regarding the Departments position on the matter; other parameters of the project; and that there were many other comments provided by other parties.

Discussion ensued regarding the current timelines and status of the issues; that, in the past the Commission has provided comment letters on this situation; and what further input this Commission could offer.

Administrator Jenne stated that he has been tracking the progress of these projects per the Chairman's request and that the thirty-day public review is the last opportunity for public comment which ends February 8, 2020.

Discussion ensued regarding the area that is being added to the proposal; what area was going to be designated as a wilderness area; the areas of limited access; and that the Commission's public comment has not been heeded to.

Secretary Wasley provided further clarification that there are formal public comments during the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process; that the air force proposed their selected preferred alternative in which they asked for all they wanted; and the Commission's request was far from what they desired. There was nothing else to drive the discussion and the delegation put forth a proposal; neither proposal is ideal, but now there are two starting points to have the discussion and possible negotiation.

Chairman Johnston requested that this topic be a standing agenda item going forward, for possible action, and requested that the Department provide updates so the Commission can determine whether to communicate with the congressional delegation or stakeholders, and have the opportunity to formulate Commission action as necessary as deemed appropriate.

Discussion ensued whether the Commission should comment during the last public comment period to stay consistent; that since this agenda item Informational, the Commission cannot take action today; that the Commission members positions have been well laid out with respect to the items to be addressed; and, that the Commission cannot formulate a good response until there is a decision from the Navy.

Discussion further ensued whether the Attorney General's office could write a letter on behalf of the Commission to reiterate the position.

Chairman Johnston requested that the Department continue to make comments which will be in line with the concerns of the Commission.

- 16.* Request for up to 30 Pygmy Rabbits by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – Secretary Wasley and Diversity Division Administrator Jennifer Newmark – For Possible Action
The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has requested up to 30 pygmy rabbits from Nevada during late winter-early spring 2020 to augment their restoration efforts. Pygmy rabbits from Nevada are similar genetically to the Columbia Basin pygmy rabbits, and these rabbits would be used to augment their semi-wild breeding population. The Commission may vote to endorse this request.

Secretary Wasley provided that the Department has been the beneficiary far more than the benefactor when it comes to sharing wildlife resources; he provided a list of species that the Department has benefited from other places along with a list of species that the Department has shared with other states. He provided that this is an opportunity to help create redundant populations, assist in recovery efforts in a nearby state and with our abundant rabbit populations, the Department determined that this would not break our pygmy banks. This falls in the Departments normal operational details, but anytime the Department is receiving or sharing wildlife, it is good to be as transparent as possible, the Department is seeking the support and endorsement of the Commission.

Diversity Division Administrator Jennifer Newmark reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs and Administrator Newmark regarding the disease of the pygmy rabbits and that it is passed through feces; that being in permanent enclosures the disease can

spread quickly, but having mobile enclosures helps prevent the spread of the disease because the agency can pick up and move the enclosure.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner McNinch and Administrator Newmark regarding whether Nevada previously had issues with genetic diversity of rabbits that caused deformities; that Nevada's rabbit genetic diversity is very diverse from others especially those in the East; and that Washington wants the rabbits from Nevada because their genetics are similar.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Barnes and Administrator Newmark regarding the Department having long term concerns over pygmy rabbits because they are a sagebrush obligate species and their habitat is fragmented due to wildfires and cheat grass invasions; that there are populations in Nevada that can withstand the taking of 30 rabbits; and that overall, Nevada's population is mostly stable.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Kiel and Administrator Newmark that Nevada does not yet need to augment Nevada's populations of pygmy rabbits; but having methodology that is perfected in Washington will only help Nevada if that is needed in the future.

Commissioner AlMBERG commented that it is important to support other states as Nevada may need to receive other species in the future so he is in full support of the request.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

Caron Tayloe, public citizen, thanked the Commission for the questions and the great presentation by Administrator Newmark as most of her questions were answered. She is glad that Nevada can help with diversity and is not against this, but sharing rabbits is not the same as sharing wild sheep that live on a range and possibly feed someone's family. Washington has extensive fur trapping and although, pygmy rabbits may or may not be the target animal, they will not discern what kind of rabbit will be in a trap. In her experience in eastern Nevada when talking to trappers, a lot of them are just as naïve as her; they are not familiar with what a pygmy rabbit looks like. She knows that these rabbits will be up for breeding, but their progeny are subject to target or non-target for trapping. Her questions are: what is being done in Washington to mitigate trapping of pygmy rabbits and is this even a factor, and can the study from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) be made public.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Fred Voltz, public citizen, provided the following statement:

Commissioners, picture someone arbitrarily taking you and your family members, against your will, to a new environment, and expecting a positive outcome under unfamiliar and unsafe conditions. Washington state's request for pygmy rabbits admits a litany of errors in how they handled their previous breeding efforts to prevent extinction of their population. Beyond the wildfire problems, unsanitary conditions were allowed to fester for an extended period of time with excessive feces present to contaminate the soil. The breeding pens were not properly maintained or moved in a timely manner. Coccidia ran rampant through the contained rabbit population without effective treatment protocols. A second, unexplained population decline occurred per the letter request. Climate conditions in the Columbia River Basin vary tremendously from Nevada, with drastic differences in elevation where pygmy's live, considerably more rainfall and snow totals than Nevada, and considerably less sunshine than Nevada. None of these variants are assessed in the project request letter or the project narrative. Several unanswered questions surface from the request letter.

Will these miniature rabbits be able to successfully adapt to any material climate variation vs. what they know living in whatever part of Nevada they would originate? Second, is it responsible to give poor stewards of wildlife more opportunities to kill more wildlife under their supposed care through ineptness? What will Washington state be doing differently going forward during the controlled breeding phase if they receive Nevada rabbits? What assurances will Nevadans have that our pygmy rabbits will be treated appropriately? No one has asked the questions and no one has volunteered any answers. This exchange should not occur given the lack of adequate due diligence.

Scott Torgerson, representing Lander CABMW, stated that their CABMW discussed this issue; they know of several ranchers who have had their Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or forest service permit altered due to the decline of pygmy rabbits. The Lander CABMW would like the Commission to vote no on sending the rabbits to Washington. If the Department does convince the Commission to send the rabbits, the Lander CABMW would request that the Commission add a stipulation that Washington return the rabbits after the breeding program is successful.

Chairman Johnston inquired if Secretary Wasley or Administrator Newmark want to address the concerns.

Secretary Wasley reiterated that the request is for, up to 30 pygmy rabbits. He provided that the University of Nevada conducted a study about the state of pygmy rabbits. With the request of up to 30 rabbits, the Department does not have any concern whatsoever about population level impacts. Relative to the conditions, there is a practice known as “coprophagia” which is when an animal consumes its own feces; rabbits are the most well-known species to exhibit this behavior and in times of low food scarcity they consume and ingest their own feces, re-digest them and get nutrients out of them. This is a captive breeding program in Washington, and they are learning from the process to keep that population alive in their state and their intentions are good. As to the impacts of incidental take through trappers, he suggests that those trapping activities could be more effective in removing predators of pygmy rabbits than the incidental take. There is a lot of speculation over an incredibly small number of animals that could potentially create redundant populations of an imperiled species in a state that in the eastern portion, is very similar to Nevada in terms of precipitation and vegetation. Pygmy rabbits are a sagebrush obligate, these animals only live in these particular habitats and they will be put in a sagebrush desert as they are in Nevada. The last point regarding permit modifications, he is unaware of any permit modification as a result of pygmy rabbits. They are a game species; if a species is determined to be as abundant as pygmy rabbits are to warrant or justify sport harvest, it is not likely that they would be a species through which permit modifications can be justified; they are identified in our state Wildlife Action Plan as a species of conservation need; as such the Department is watching their status and trends.

Chairman Johnston noted that in the letter from the state of Washington, it was not just a disease event, they also note that in 2017 a wild fire destroyed a breeding enclosure and temporary pen that resulted in the loss of 85 pygmy rabbits; they also note that in the winter, it was a combined effect of disease and fire stress that may have resulted in more mortality. If this would impact Nevada negatively or if it would not be helpful to the state of Washington, he would be confident that the Department would say that; so he would be in support of authorizing the Department to do this.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that there is not a lot known about rabbits. She provided a personal story about taking in cotton tail rabbits and she learned that the babies needed their mother’s fecal matter in order to coat their intestines to allow them to digest their food source and it is an important part of their biology.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THAT THE NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS APPROVE WASHINGTON’S REQUEST FOR UP TO 30 PYGMY RABBITS AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT WORK WITH THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO FULFILL THAT REQUEST. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

17.* Draft Fiscal Year 2021 Predation Management Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action

The draft Fiscal Year 2021 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review. Following this review, the draft plan will be updated and shared with the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC). All comments from the PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and any other interested entity will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at their March 2020 meeting. The Commission will receive an update at the March 2020 meeting from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee and may provide additional direction at that time.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public and presented a PowerPoint on the Predator Management Plan, Fiscal Year 2021.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about the new proposed project and whether the project would be using trail cameras; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded that the Department would not put trail cameras across all of northwest Nevada, but working with the staff and existing Global Positioning System (GPS) data on known collared does would assist along with the trail cameras; that the cameras are on a grid system and can capture photos 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week which will help the Department understand how many animals are in a certain area at a certain time of the year.

Commissioner Valentine inquired if there was a possibility that Project 46 would be expanding into the eastern and south eastern portion of the state. Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded that it would be doable and he could incorporate those into a future discussion.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated that she supports this plan and she would like to see Project 46 expand in the future. Discussion ensued between Madam Vice Chairwoman East and Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson whether he has enough budget to do the projects at the level that the Department should be doing them; but that he will provide information at a later date if there is a project he would like to expand and have more financial support.

Commissioner Kiel stated he would also like to see Project 46 expand and wanted to give Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson some flexibility as he learns from the study.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs, Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson and Diversity Division Administrator Jennifer Newmark regarding the valuable information Mr. Jackson is gaining from the cameras in relation to Project 46 and if there is a sensitive species that could benefit from it; that the Department is always looking for opportunities within the divisions to share information; and that the Department is still in a discovery process with Project 46.

Commissioner Hubbs suggested that the photos from the project be posted to the Department's Facebook site.

No public comment in Elko.

Public Comment in Reno:

Steven Robinson, representing Washoe CABMW, thanked the Department for proposing Project 46 to figure out what is happening to the deer herd in the northwest part of the state. He stated that in the proposed project areas, Unit #022 is not listed as an area of interest and requested that it be added to the project as that deer herd is also struggling. While their CABMW appreciates the study, they do hope that if there is an obvious cause of the deer herd decline that the Department will act to reduce that factor quickly and not wait until the project is over in 2025.

Rex Flowers, public citizen, stated that regarding Project 46, he would suggest adding Unit #022 because twenty five percent of the population has been lost; with this being a five-year study, there would be a forty-three percent loss of the herd. He also requested that after some experimental management within a year, that there would be implementation to help manage the herd. He stated that Unit #011 – 013 has suffered over the past five years with a forty-three percent loss in its deer population; Unit #014 has suffered a fifty-nine percent herd loss in the last five years; and Unit #033 has suffered a fifty-nine percent of deer herd population loss. If this loss continues at these rates after another five years, it will have a negative result; he requested that some form of implementation occur within a year.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Joe Crim, representing Pershing CABMW, stated that they support the projects in the Predation Plan and requested that Pershing County be added to Project 46 since they are in between the two included counties, Washoe and Humboldt, and that they have one of the largest populations of wild horses and burros in the state.

Dave Talaga, representing Clark CABMW, stated that the Predation Plan is a source of great frustration at their meetings due to the lack of data available to them; he was happy to hear the plan explained but disagrees that Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson has enough money for the project. He stated that their CABMW voted 6-0 to support the plan; however, they suggested that every effort be made to spend the allocated funds so there is no carryover. They believe that there should be some form of mortality study initiated in several areas for mule deer, so the Department understands why the fawn recruitment is low. They appreciate the Predation Plan for mountain lions and coyotes, but they are lacking data as to how effective that really is; without the data, is it so effective that it has to be eighty percent of the budget. He requested that Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson be given the tools to collect the data that would be more available to the CABMW's to study.

Stephanie Myers, public citizen, stated that it is time for the Wildlife Commission to press the Nevada Legislature to be done with the \$3 predator fee; if not that, to withdraw the eight percent lethal mandate. It appears that the only animals or people that benefit from these projects are wildlife services.

Fed Voltz, public citizen, provided the following statement:

He echoes Ms. Myers comments, it is time for the Commission to go to the Legislature and fix this problem that was a political creation four years ago and has not worked well; the money has not been spent well; it is not in wildlife's interest and it is poor use of the tax money being extracted from your licensees.

Chairman Johnston inquired about Project 46 and if the information received by Mr. Jackson early on requires implementation; and, if Projects 37 and 38 would give Mr. Jackson that flexibility while the Predation Management Plan is in place; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson concurred.

Chairman Johnston inquired if Mr. Jackson can work with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee to expand the project and how much additional funds will be needed to accomplish the expansion, prior to the presentation of the plan to the Commission in March; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded that he can evaluate that proposal and will report back at the March Commission meeting.

Chairman Johnston stated he does not know of any specific action today since the Department will report to the Wildlife Damage Management Committee, then to the Commission in March. He thanked Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson for his work on the plan.

18. Commission Regulations – For Possible Adoption – Public Comment Allowed

- A.* Commission General Regulation 486, Veteran and Active Military Waterfowl Season LCB File No. R027-19 – Management Analyst Kailey Taylor – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to amend Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). Federal statute was adopted in 2019 which, should a state desire, would allow for veterans and active military to exclusively hunt waterfowl for a period of two days within the maximum allowable days of the existing season. If adopted, this regulation would provide authority to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish such a season at some future point if they choose. The Commission held a workshop on September 20, 2019 and a second workshop on November 1, 2019. The Commission has requested that the Department bring the regulation back for possible adoption.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department’s website for the public.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 486, VETERAN AND ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL SEASON, LCB FILE NO. R027-19 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

- B.* Commission General Regulation 488, Landowner Compensation Tags, LCB File No. R083-19 – Wildlife Staff Biologist Mike Scott and Wildlife Staff Biologist Tom Donham – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting regulation to amend Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for allocating landowner deer and antelope compensation tags if owner applicants cumulatively qualify for compensation tags in excess of the statutory limit.

Chairman Johnston stated that this agenda item was removed from the agenda as the Department has not received information back from the Legislative Council Bureau for later consideration and it will be deferred to a later Commission agenda.

- C.* Commission Regulation 19-05, Amendment #1, 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 Big Game Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider amendments to the 2020–2021 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits,

hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics and legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas. The Department amendments correct errors from last year, address emerging management needs, address substantial changes in wildlife abundance, or address conflicts.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public and presented a PowerPoint on Commission Regulation 19-05, Amendment #1, 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 Big Game Seasons.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Discussion ensued regarding the Department's ability to meet harvest objectives by adding more tags to the quota when hunt units are eliminated; that the Department is trying to offer as much opportunity while also maintaining a quality elk hunting experience for everyone; and the Department can get an elk tag into the hand of someone that did not already have the opportunity to get out and hunt.

Commissioner Barnes commented about the background of this project; that he appreciated the Department making an effort to get the elk numbers down; and he expressed his appreciation for the Department for sticking with the plan.

Chairman Johnston commented that the initial goal was to get the elk numbers back to the desired management levels without putting so many more people into the field; and that it detracted from the experience of cow elk hunters by putting the cow tag in the hands of someone who drew a deer tag.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 19-05, AMENDMENT #1, 2019–2020 AND 2020–2021 BIG GAME SEASONS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

- D.* Commission Regulation 19-12, Amendment #1, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Restricted Nonresident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas - Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider amending 2020–2021 hunting seasons and quotas for restricted nonresident guided mule deer including hunt boundary restrictions.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 19-12, AMENDMENT #1, 2019-2020 AND 2020-2021 RESTRICTED NONRESIDENT GUIDED MULE DEER SEASONS AND QUOTAS AS PRESENTED. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

- E.* Commission Regulation 20-02, 2020 Black Bear Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting 2020 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public and presented a PowerPoint on Black Bear Season Recommendations.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Commissioner Hubbs commented that last year the Department opened more areas for the bear hunt and inquired if harvest was reached early in the new area; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded that Unit #203 was added about two years ago and the harvest limit was reached in one of the three areas this year.

Commissioner Hubbs commented on the types of correspondence the Commission receives from the public on the black bear hunt; some is positive, and some is negative. She inquired about the options for setting seasons so the public is aware; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded that the Commission is only setting seasons today and he will have harvest limit recommendations at the March meeting.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the Commission could propose closing the season; Secretary Wasley responded that it is within the Commissions purview to discontinue a season; however, there is a statute that indicates that the closure of any season must be made on scientific data.

Commissioner Hubbs stated she felt it helpful to put that on the record so the public understands the Commission's capabilities.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

David Gough, representing Nevada's Sporting Dog Alliance, stated the following:

Dear Chairman Johnston and Members of the Board. The Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance (NSDA) supports the 2020 black bear season as recommended by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) for the 2020-hunting season. The harvest composition of the prior 2019 season was excellent and indicates a continued light harvest of Nevada's black bear population. Of note in the 2019 harvest composition were improvements in total sow harvest (down to 18% compared to 21% in 2018), as well as an improvement in the utilization of bear meat (100% compared to 93% in 2018). Successful bear hunter checkout summaries indicated that a total of 18 additional bears were passed, implying that successful bear hunters continue to be selective in

their harvest. This is especially true for hunters employing the use of trained hounds, which account for 77% of the total bears passed during the hunt. Most notably, the average age of male bears harvested in the hunt is 8.6 years old, which reaffirms a light harvest of the bear population. For these reasons, and in the absence of any science-based reasons to the contrary, we urge you to approve the 2020 black bear season as written. We appreciate your continued commitment to the management of our State's wildlife resources. Thank you.

Rowdy Fitzgerald, public citizen, stated that he moved to Nevada from California; and that he specifically chose Nevada because of the use of hunting bears with hounds. He asked that the Commission follow the science and to not let emotional pleas dictate what the science proves. He thanked the Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance for the work they do.

Caron Tayloe, public citizen, stated that she is still waiting on Board and the Department to get rid of this trophy hunt that was developed ten years ago to satisfy the Governor's cronies. She stated that there was no science involved in developing this hunt; and how interesting that science must be the reason to close a hunt. She stated that there is no benefit to wildlife and she is still waiting for the sagebrush ecosystem people to discuss the impact of dogs running through the ecosystem. She thanked the Commissioners for considering the input of other states because hunters do that all the time.

Steve Robinson, representing Washoe CABMW, stated that they had one hundred percent support from the public for this hunt and a unanimous vote of the CABMW to support the bear season as proposed.

Craig Burnside, representing Douglas CABMW, stated that their CABMW discussed the confusion in the description of the boundaries for Units #192 and #194; they voted to recommend to extend the western boundaries of Unit #192 and #194 to the shores of Lake Tahoe; and, that the Commission add shot gun as a legal weapon for the bear hunt.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Jana Wright, public citizen, stated the following:

Mr. Chair and Commissioners, My name is Jana Wright and I once again am speaking in opposition of the Black Bear hunt. As I stated in previous testimony before this Commission, the bear hunt is not a management tool for NDOW. We have the hunt for no reason other than hunter opportunity. My opposition to this trophy hunt, which is species specific, is a questionable hunting practice in my opinion. We know the use of dogs is not popular with most Nevadans. The recent Nevada State Report of the Americans Wildlife Values survey report stated that 63% of those polled were against the use of dogs, yet the practice continues. Why? I personally feel the use of dogs is a violation of fair chase. The dogs wear GPS collars, are off leash, off trail and are stressing other wildlife as they run wild over the terrain. Hunters are tracking the dogs not the bears, how is this fair to the bear? I also feel this is a violation of NRS 503.010, 6(a) of that statute says it is unlawful to use any information obtained from a radio signal or other transmission device received from any transmitting device, 6(e) says it is unlawful to harass or take any game mammal, game bird or other wildlife, 9(c) defines harass means as molest, chase, rally, concentrate, herd, intercept, torment or drive. This is exactly what the dogs are doing in the hunt. Why is this allowed as an ethical hunting practice? The Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap that Director Wasley presented at yesterday's meeting, mentions several recommendations with broad impact for wildlife agencies. I mention a few: Agency leadership and governing bodies must recognize the need for conservation agencies to adapt to changing societal conditions and demonstrate support for adaption efforts. Agency leadership and their governing bodies need to demonstrate commitment to being more inclusive of diverse perspectives and interests in fish, wildlife, their habitats and outdoor recreation activities. Agencies need to increase acquisition and application of social science information to better understand, engage and serve broader

constituencies. The list goes on and it is apparent that agencies and their governing boards need to be more open to views other than hunters. Please do not let this season's discussion be deja vu all over again, to paraphrase Yogi Berra. Please vote no on the hunt.

Stephanie Myers, public citizen, stated that she opposes the black bear and mountain lion hunt, though she is not anti-hunting. The reasons she opposes it include the reasons that Ms. Wright just gave, and because that there is no stated wildlife management objective. The reason provided is that the population can sustain these losses and these quotas. She believes that this is a trophy hunt; the head goes on the wall, the skin is a rug and it is only being used for decoration. She opposes the hunt because of the use of hounds; it is a violation of fair chase and it is destructive. The dogs harass wildlife. Problem bears can be dealt with separately.

Dave Talaga, representing Clark CABMW, stated that the CABMW voted 5-1 in favor of the season. The one dissenting vote stated that it is solely a trophy hunt and not a management tool. He wonders if those same people would say that all hunting is cruel and barbaric; which is not detracting from a hunt. Secondly, it has been said that there is no management value for the hunt; he inquired about when a species reaches a certain threshold where it can be construed as a candidate for a hunt. He provided that the CABMW's rely upon the Department to tell them the health of the herds and they rely on the Department to determine if it is not a good idea to have the hunt. He proposed that the hunt be accepted and that the data be used to further manage the animal, but also understand that before there was a Department to manage the herd, there was a herd, and where there was a herd, there were hunters, so the hunters preceded the management.

Annoula Wylderich, public citizen, stated the following: We often hear words like harvest and culling and management used when referring to various hunting pursuits, and I think in many cases that's to convey a different image to the non-consumptive public sector but it is basically sugar-coating. When we're talking about the bear hunt, like trophy hunts and coyote killing contests, these are nothing more than kill-for-the-thrill spectacles. They are inhumane and unethical especially as defined by the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which is the world's most successful system of conservation and management – and that is the one that agencies and most respectable hunters abide by. I am sure you are all familiar with it. Two important tenets of the North American Model are that one does not take or use wildlife for economic benefit nor for wasteful, illegitimate and unsportsmanlike purposes. The sportsman code includes a commitment to perpetuation, non-commercial use, and also stipulates that no unnecessary pain or suffering was inflicted. There are people in the room whose duty it is to act as trustees for wildlife and stewards of its perpetuation for future generations, and to ensure its proper use by upholding the highest ethical principles. I think included in that group are the interests of non-hunters; those of us who prefer to enjoy wildlife in other ways that does not include harming them. Essentially, wildlife does belong to all of Nevadans, some of us just prefer to enjoy it in different ways. There are concerns by hunting groups that wildlife watchers are seeking to ban and that is simply not the case. All we are seeking is humane practices and adherence to the North American Model. As you can see, there has been increased public awareness of these issues, and I hope because of that, that this Commission will consider both hunting and non-hunting interests so there is a more equitable representation.

Fred Voltz, public citizen, provided the following statement:

The NDOW guestimates of our states bear population have fluctuated dramatically, running anywhere from between 600 to 800 bears, and now supposedly somewhere in the low 400 range, with no cogent explanation for the radical variances. At a 10% mortality rate, we start losing the bear population's ability to replace itself, and continue on a long, slow slide toward extinction. Through December 2, 2019, 41 known bears died in Nevada for just under one year. Seventeen of those were from the hunt last year and were listed in the staff report. However, eight more were killed by NDOW as nuisances. Fourteen were killed by

vehicles. One was euthanized. One was found dead. The problem with these statistics is that they fail to reflect two other categories of deaths. How many bears died after being pursued and shot, but not immediately killed, then escaping, only to die from their injuries somewhere in the wild? How many bears died after being relentlessly and mercilessly pursued by hounds with GPS collars (violating fair chase principles), then falling off the edge of cliffs or some other perilous setting into crevices or canyons? The mortality numbers could easily be much, much higher than what NDOW tracks and thinks it knows. Ask yourselves how your own family would respond if Mom and/or Dad was killed and the kids were left to fend for themselves in the wilderness with no adult guidance or training? This unsavory situation has happened every year to bear families with no concern for the mortality rates of dependent cubs who no longer have parents, adding further to the unknown death toll. This bear hunt never had any sound biological justification and should not be continued for another season given the lack of accurate or consistent population guesstimates or mortality statistics. Set the seasons today, then set the quotas at zero.

Commissioner McNinch inquired about the last population estimate that was conducted and is all known mortality included in the determination; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded that the last population estimate was completed by Jim Sedinger about a year ago; that the population was 434; and that estimate only includes individuals that were 18 months and older. He further stated that the data presented only represents bears taken by sportsmen.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he does not understand all of the dynamics on how bears are taken but he still has concerns with the data presented. He hopes the process continues to improve at establishing population estimates. He understands that information is gathered through the hunt, but he does not feel comfortable with the hunt. There are too many variables and he is not there to support the hunt.

Commissioner Hubbs commented that she had an opportunity to meet a bear face to face after the November Commission meeting; this bear like others was attracted to urban areas and was trying to put on weight. She does not believe it is a good time to have hounds chasing a bear while it is seeking to have its biological needs met for hibernation; that is not helpful to the bears in any capacity. She is concerned about the numbers because the Department does not know the bears that well. She does not want to extend any boundaries or use shot guns. She is for reducing the season in general, if anything, changing it to December to give them more time to be left alone at the end of the winter.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated that she appreciates the correspondence the most that gave statistics and information. Specifically, the Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance as they reported a one-hundred percent utilization of the need in 2018, which is her interest in this topic. She is in favor of setting the seasons of the hunt and appreciates the correspondence received on both sides.

Chairman Johnston stated he questions if other wildlife commissions receive the same type of wrath this Commission receives; that over 1,500 bears were taken in California last year; hundreds were taken in Oregon and 17 were taken in Nevada. He stated that everyone is entitled to our own opinions but not to our own facts; he provided his opinion to the public comment received by the Commission and his opinion on the bear hunt. He stated that in much of the public opposition he received, the opposition was based upon complete misunderstanding. He stated that the Commission does not round up wild horses; he requested that the public educate themselves on what the Commission does or does not do before they criticize the Commission's actions. The public states that the Commission does not listen; he has listened and realized that people are being provided false information that then prompts them to oppose the hunt. He supports the hunt and he does believe it has a benefit to the state. He provided that the sportsmen and the Department have invested in the bear population. His biggest concern is if the investment and the attention given to this bear population goes away and this hunt is ended purely out of emotional reaction because it is a bear, then where does it end.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-02, 2020 BLACK BEAR SEASONS AS PRESENTED. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 7-2. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND MCNINCH DISSENTED.

- F.* Commission Regulation 20-03, 2020–2021 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting 2020–2021 mountain lion hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours, and special regulations.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department’s website for the public and presented a PowerPoint on Mountain Lion Seasons and Harvest limits.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she received the Mountain Lion Foundation, Saving America’s Mountain Lions Report which includes a lot of science and provided her comments. She inquired if the Department has any concerns about the additive component; and is the Department still staying that hunting year-round and the predator management plan are not additive in terms of harming the population numbers.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson stated that the Mountain Lion Foundation did not reach out to him about the seasons, harvest limits or the predator plan. From an additive standpoint, he said that Nevada has a solid mountain lion harvest and it is very dependent on snow. It is captured in the Nevada Administrative Code that the season will start the first day of March and go until the last day in February. Looking at the literature, he does not believe that from a population standpoint that the Department is over harvesting mountain lions anywhere. But there are times where the Department does want to have additive mortality for them predominately for the benefit of bighorn sheep.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the Department wants additive pressure in certain areas; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson confirmed yes.

Public comment in Elko:

Jim Cooney, representing Elko CABMW, stated that the Elko CABMW is in full support of the lion seasons as presented. He stated some citizens suggested something similar to what Idaho does which allows a person with a deer tag to also harvest a wolf. The correlation is, if a Nevada hunter had a deer tag or big game tag, then they could have a mountain lion tag.

Public comment in Reno:

Steve Robinson, representing Washoe CABMW, stated that their CABMW unanimously supports the mountain lion season as proposed.

Rowdy Fitzgerald, public citizen, stated that the hunt should go as proposed since there is no hunting in California which allows for mountain lions to come into the Reno area that are attacking livestock, sheep and pets. He supports the hunt.

Rex Flowers, public citizen, asked the Commission to reconsider opening Unit #033 to mountain lion hunting even though it is a federal refuge; and that the state is mandated to manage the wildlife on the refuge. Given

the lower deer populations, there is room to allow for mountain lion hunting there and the Department needs to challenge the federal government for the right to manage our wildlife.

Public comment in Las Vegas.

Stephanie Myers, public citizen, stated that the mountain lion hunt needs reform. Anytime day or night, 365 days a year, is a lot. The problem lions can be dealt with separately, but the hours and the season really need to be brought down. The hunters she talks to says they only hunt mountain lions in the winter because they need the snow to see their footprints. If that is the case, then the hours and seasons need to reflect that.

Dave Talaga, Clark CABMW, stated that they voted 4-2 in favor of supporting the hunt. They suggested that Unit #033 should be open with quota of 1 because the trappers report that the Sheldon Mountains are overrun with lions. The first dissenting opinion felt that the 24 hours a day, 7 days a week hunting season was unethical and not a management tool. The second dissenting opinion did not want to recommend opening Unit #033 until the CABMW hears from the Department on why it is closed.

Commissioner McNinch asked for the population estimate of mountain lions; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded that Department does not currently estimate the population of mountain lions; they use the metrics of overall female and adult female to monitor this. He stated that Project 42 and the predator plan are the building of an integrated population model and that will be able to provide an estimate.

Commissioner Hubbs stated she agrees that the Department does not know much about the mountain lions. She inquired if mountain lions have their kittens all year and the reason for the 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week hunt; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson stated that mountain lions have a birth pulse in the spring; but have the ability to have kittens year round. He further responded that the hunt is captured in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC); discussion ensued on how that regulation could change.

Commissioner Valentine inquired about the mechanics to add Unit #033 to the mountain lion hunt; Secretary Wasley responded that it would not be possible today; the mechanics would include some form of a planning process through the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that administers the refuge and possibly extending to a NEPA type analysis. He stated that there is a new hunt/fish chief who manages the USFWS and is fulfilling an initiative to expand hunting and fish opportunities on the refuge system throughout the country. The new chief has reached out and expressed a desire to talk about these things so the Department will get more information.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that since the Commission cannot modify this regulation today she will support the regulation but has concerns with the 365 days a year, 24 hours a day hunt.

COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-03, 2020–2021 MOUNTAIN LION SEASON AND HARVET LIMITS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

- G.* Commission Regulation 20-04, 2021 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2021 Heritage Tag species, seasons and quota.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired about the change of the Nelson Desert Bighorn sheep hunt last year to September from August and why was that not done for the California ram. She believes the concern was putting pressure on them at a time when it was really warm and they were accessing water.

Secretary Wasley said he believes it had to do with where they live and the temperatures in the far south; he requested the game division or Deputy Director Robb to further explain. Deputy Director Jack Robb stated that the California Bighorn sheep seasons are already open on September 1 so there would be no advantage to the Heritage tag holder over the general public.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired why the season opens in August for mule deer and elk. Deputy Director Jack Robb responded that it is similar; archery season opens and allows the auction tag holder to be in field before the archery hunter.

Commissioner Caviglia stated he dissented to moving the Nelson Desert Bighorn sheep hunt to September 1. He provided that last weekend, tag #1 was auctioned off at the sheep show and it went for \$100,000; the year prior it went for \$155,000; and the year prior to that it went for \$170,000. The tag cost has gone down over time; they are being purchased for the perception of the advantage on the hunt; and pushing the hunt is why it went for a lower price this year. He suggested that the Commission put the Nelson Desert Bighorn sheep tag back to August 1; as there is no doubt to him that the cost went down because the hunt was moved to September.

Commissioner Valentine stated he believes that the conversation last year started because he promoted moving the Nelson Desert Bighorn sheep tag to a year round season; he still believes that would not be a major impact, but it shows a lot of value for that tag. He agrees that the hunt should be moved back to August 1.

Commissioner Almborg stated that he has no issue with moving the hunt up one month; the value of the tag is to put projects on the ground which is more important.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno.

Rex Flowers, public citizen, requested that the hunt stay at September 1 for the Nelson Desert Bighorn sheep because those hunters that are paying the premium are getting a 20-day advantage over the earliest season available.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Clint Bentley, public citizen, reminded the Commission that the Heritage tag is there to raise money; biologically, those tags are harvested every year. He agrees that it should be a 365-day hunt, but it could go back to at least August because the perception is there as Commissioner Caviglia expressed.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that this may be a typo, but the accepted units for next year is not 262; Chairman Johnston provided clarification.

Commissioner Hubbs said she has no input whether the hunt is in August or September; she will leave it to the Department to notify the Commission if it was a problem to open it one month earlier and those who are more aware of the revenue that is generated by these auctions.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Commissioner Caviglia regarding the date being moved from August to September because the Nelson Desert Bighorn sheep since they are tied to water development projects; that the Commission thought it was in the best interest of wildlife last year since it was only two tags; that the hunters who pay for the premium tags get to hunt a buck in the velvet and in the rut; and that since the Nelson Desert Bighorn sheep is more appealing to hunt near the water, they pay their money for that advantage.

Deputy Director Jack Robb stated he makes a point at the auctions to thank the unsuccessful and successful hunters, and to converse with them and offer any help to get them the tag. He learned from these conversations that if these hunts were for 365 days a year, they would bring in a lot more money. It does have an effect on wildlife but has a positive effect on other things based on the amount of money earned.

Chairman Johnston stated he would like to maximize the heritage money because of what it does and inquired if there is a proper balance to have a 365-day hunt instead of just moving it back to August.

Discussion ensued regarding the reward and maximizing the costs; that when brought up in years past, some of the debate included perception and ethics; that there needs to be balance and the value of the tag to be maximized, but sensitive to hunter ethics and fair chase and the perception that it creates.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that having been on these hunts, there is no known harassment made to the sheep because it is only two tags, and the number of people that go out is slim.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston, Commissioner Kiel, Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee and Deputy Director Jack Robb regarding if the 365 days was approved, would there be any conflicts with other tags purchased; does the same rationale apply to all tags or just the sheep tags; and that the shed antler season closure needs to be considered. Further discussion ensued regarding the hunt time frame based on when the tag is purchased.

Commissioner Hubbs stated she may refrain from supporting the change based on the comments even if there are just two tags.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Silver State tags also need to be changed.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-04, 2021 HERITAGE TAG SEASONS AND QUOTA AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: THAT THE SEASON DATE FOR THE NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HERITAGE TAG #1 BE CHANGED FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021, AND THE NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HERITAGE TAG #2 BE CHANGED FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021; AND THE CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP HERITAGE TAG #1 BE CHANGED FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2021. COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 8-1. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST DISSENTED.

- H.* Commission Regulation 20-05, 2020 Dream Tag – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2020 Dream Tag species, seasons and quota.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public. She stated that two units were accidentally left off the presented documents for closure and she will explain during her presentation.

Chairman Johnston inquired if there was an additional recommendation by the Department that the units would be closed; Administrator Munoz confirmed yes, that staff did state that they already met their quota, but Unit #031 and Unit #262 were overlooked in putting the information together.

Chairman Johnston inquired if there was language be added regarding if certain tags were filled in units with a quota of less than ten as set forth in the Heritage tag; Commissioner McNinch clarified that Administrator Munoz was reading the justification for adding Units #031 and #262.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he would be making two motions so that he and Commissioner Hubbs can have an opportunity to vote in favor of the Dream Tag.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE ONLY THAT PORTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-05, 2020 DREAM TAG PERTAINING TO MULE DEER, PRONGHORN ANTELOPE, AND NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP DREAM TAG #1 WITH THE ADDITION OF HUNT UNIT #262 AS A CLOSED UNIT; ELK AND CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP DREAM TAG #1 WITH THE ADDITION OF HUNT UNIT #031 AS A CLOSED UNIT. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-4. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST AND COMMISSIONERS VALENTINE, BARNES AND KIEL DISSENTED, MOTION CARRIES 5-4.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-05, 2020 DREAM TAG AS IT RELATES TO THE BLACK BEAR. COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-2 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND HUBBS DISSENTING.

- I.* Commission Regulation 20-06, 2020 Partnership in Wildlife Tags – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2020 Partnership in Wildlife tags hunt species, seasons and quota.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public. She also recommended closing Unit #262 for the Nelson Desert Bighorn sheep and Unit #031 for California Bighorn sheep.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-06, 2020 PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE TAGS AS PRESENTED, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT UNIT #262 BE CLOSED SPECIFIC TO THE NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP TAG AND UNIT #031 BE CLOSED FOR THE CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP TAG. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

- J.* Commission Regulation 20-07, 2020 Silver State Tags – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2020 Silver State tag species, seasons and quota.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department’s website for the public.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners Hubbs and McNinch, Chairman Johnston and Deputy Director Jack Robb that the intention behind the Silver State Tag is to give the average person the same opportunity as others get for the Heritage Tag; that this tag should not be changed like the Heritage Tag this year; and why Unit #262 is not closed for this tag.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-07, 2020 SILVER STATE TAGS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

- K.* Commission Regulation 20-08, 2020 Big Game Application Deadlines – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting regulation to set the 2020 big game tag application deadlines and related information.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department’s website for the public. She suggested a slight change to extend the draw deadline to Monday, May 4, 2020. Deputy Director Jack Robb explained the change in the draw deadline date and stated that the results will be posted no later than Friday, May 22, 2020, but the goal would be to have the draw results posted by Wednesday, May 20, 2020, if possible.

Public comment in Elko:

Jim Cooney, representing Elko CABMW, inquired as to the date for the deadline to submit applications; Chairman Johnston responded that the deadline for applications will be Monday, May 4, 2020 with draw results posted on/before May 22, 2020.

Public comment in Reno:

Rex Flowers, public citizen, commented regarding the harvest questionnaires that need to be completed online; that per NAC 502.345, the hunter no longer has to do a return questionnaire on bighorn rams, bears and goats. He stated that it is not noted on the documents, but it should be because everybody does not know that they do not have to do complete the harvest questionnaire online and asked for the language to be added for those 3 species.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

Secretary Wasley responded to Mr. Flowers and provided that the Commission took action to replace the requirement for the online check-in; the staff is aware and is communicating with the hunter directly when they check-in the animals, which is a requirement. Discussion ensued between Secretary Wasley and Commissioner McNinch that this process will not get overlooked because there is an electronic interface by the staff when the hunter is checking in the animal and the requirement is fulfilled by staff.

Commissioner AlMBERG suggested that if the language is added as Mr. Flowers suggested, those hunters who were unsuccessful would be confused because they still need to complete the questionnaire online.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-08, 2020 BIG GAME APPLICATION DEADLINES AS PRESENTED, BUT WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT THE DRAW RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

- L.* Commission Regulation 20-09, 2020 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting regulation to set the 2020 big game tag application eligibility and tag limits and related information.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Tom Cassinelli, representing Humboldt CABMW, stated that changing this regulation allows the hunter to lose their bonus points if they do not put in for cow elk tag while putting in for a bull tag. He requested the Department to look into future to make it the same for deer, sheep and antelope to where the hunter can put in for units, meaning the hunter picks their sex preference so if they do not draw for the male, they are still in the draw for the female or vice versa.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated that he spoke to Mr. Cassinelli about the draw order and provided further explanation on the topic.

Commissioner Kiel inquired if a hunter draws a cow tag, do they lose bonus points for both sexes of that species; Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee responded that the only way the hunter would lose points for that animal would be if they do not put in for that hunt for two consecutive years.

Commissioner Alberg stated that he agrees with the concept and sees why hunters would be hesitant to put in for a cow tag but sees it as a good option.

MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 20-09, 2020 BIG GAME TAG APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND TAG LIMITS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

19. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Wasley and Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 20 and 21, 2020, in Reno and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated meeting that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Secretary Wasley stated that the next Commission meeting will be held on March 20 and 21, 2020, in Reno at the Washoe County Commission Chambers, and the Department will video stream on YouTube and teleconference to Las Vegas. The agenda items will include the following: Conservation Partner Spotlight standing agenda item which will encompass a presentation by the Truckee River Fly Fishers and a field trip to the Oxbow Nature Study Area on the Truckee River where the Department will do a presentation on the Trout in the Classroom program along with conducting a trout release of the fish that have been raised by the local schools; and the Department is soliciting ideas from the Commission on the Project Update item. The action items will include the following: Draft Predation Management Plan; setting the Waterfowl Season and Limits; standing agenda item for updates on Nellis Air Force Base and the Fallon military expansion; Commission General Regulation 488, the Landowner Compensation Tag count resolution; Commission General Regulation 485, the Tag Transfer regulation; and, Commission General Regulation 490, the First Come First Serve regulation will be approached with a workshop on Friday and possible action on Saturday. The Committee meetings and associated reports will include: Wildlife Damage Management Committee; Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee; Regulation Simplification Committee; the Commission has expressed a desire for the Wildlife Heritage Committee to provide guidance to the agency on how the additional available funds are to be spent; and the Landowner Damage Compensation Committee.

Communication was lost with the Reno and Elko offices; the meeting was paused to reestablish connection.

Secretary Wasley shared statistics about the loss of 2.9 billion birds over the last 50 years and how the wetland community has flourished through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the North American Waterfowl Conservation Act; and that the NAWCA plan has been in place for 30 years and has conserved an excess of 30 million acres through approximately 6,000 partners and 2,800 projects to the tune of over \$6 billion dollars which captures the magnitude and duration of the efforts to conserve wetland habitat for waterfowl and shore birds as well.

Once connection was re-established with the Reno and Elko offices, Secretary Wasley repeated the possible agenda items for the next meeting.

Secretary Wasley stated that the following items will also be on the March Commission agenda: a petition that was received from John Zenz regarding the Big Game Tag Drawing changes and an Appeal Hearing for Craig Arnett for suspension of his hunting, fishing, trapping and other license and permit privileges for three years; that Commissioner Valentine requested to revisit the mandatory indoctrination for sheep hunters and there was a proposal to the Commission from the Landowner Compensation tag for protocols for multiple properties and units.

Chairman Johnston stated that there will not be a Landowner Compensation Tag Committee meeting; but it does need to be on the Commission agenda for the protocol for the tag count.

Secretary Wasley stated that the Department is waiting on language for the Shed Antler regulation and once that has been received from the Legislative Counsel Bureau it will be added as an agenda item.

Chairman Johnston stated that the waterfowl seasons should be held on Saturday along with any other potential adoption hearings with the workshop the day before; he requested to have the petition heard on one day and the appeal on a different day. He further stated that he will review the existing Committee list between now and the March Commission meeting to see if any Committees can be dissolved.

Secretary Wasley offered the Department's help to look at the Committee structure.

20. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

No public comment on Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Clint Bentley, public citizen, thanked the Department and the Commission for the informational and professional meetings over the last two days.

Fred Voltz, public citizen, provided the following statement:

Yet another state, Massachusetts, gave its wildlife an early Christmas present when the Commonwealth's Fisheries and Wildlife Board banned wildlife killing contests. These contests inflict massive disruption upon whatever wildlife species is the target of participants, along with non-target species that frequently become collateral damage or are dependent on the target species as food sources. This change means that in addition to Massachusetts, the states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Vermont have all taken individual action to stop a practice that is the epitome of wanton waste Caron Tayloe brought up in yesterday's final comment period. In no way can wildlife killing contests comport with the North American Model of Wildlife Management that is supposed to be the gold standard for ethical hunting. When is Nevada going to join the 21st Century and end this practice that is biologically destructive to all species, the inter-species food chain and the land that we jointly inhabit? While we are at it, we need to similarly stop commercial and recreational fur trapping if Nevada wants to be a part of the 21st Century and not some backward province that fails to understand how important a healthy and diverse range of wildlife species are toward supporting human life. Twenty-eight recent trapping citations written by our small number of field game wardens indicates we have a huge, widespread problem with rogue trappers who cannot act responsibly. When will the Commission take constructive action on these two issues in the same way that it decisively and swiftly ended the indefensible, large-scale commercial trapping of reptiles a few short years ago? Finally, after last year's SCI convention where NDOW was present, but did not detect the sale of endangered species body parts, it would be appropriate to dispatch some type of law enforcement effort at the upcoming Reno SCI Convention.

Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Note: The meeting has been videotaped and is available for viewing at www.ndow.org. The minutes are only a summary of the meeting. A complete record of the meeting can be obtained at the Nevada Department of Wildlife Headquarters Office in Reno.